



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Cracks Widen on Chavez-Army Street

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

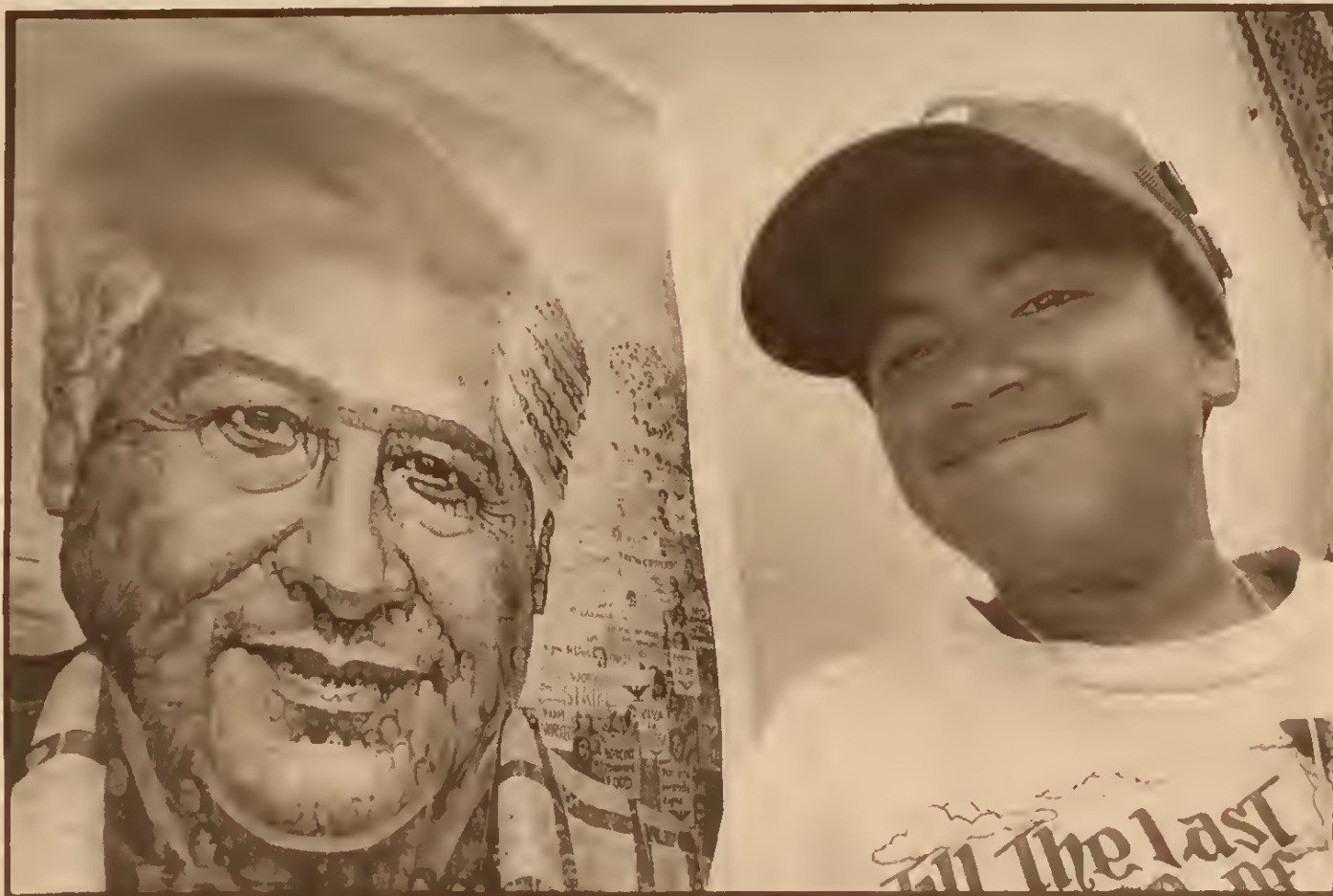
The hot—and getting hotter—argument over a Nov. 7 ballot proposition, which hopes to repeal the January city ordinance renaming Army Street after Cesar Chavez, is nearly tearing Noe Valley apart.

Since he became a spokesperson for San Franciscans to Save Army Street—the group that sponsored the measure—Mitchell Friedman has received death threats on his phone answering machine. He now has an unlisted number.

"I will not accept my life being threatened," says Friedman, a resident of "Army Street" for the past six years.

Equally upset is 10-year-old Jesse Arreguin, a St. Philip's School sixth-grader

Continued on Page 7



Ten-year-old St. Philip's student Jesse Arreguin has campaigned tirelessly to keep one of the Mission's main thoroughfares named after his idol, Cesar Chavez, but residents of the former Army Street are taking their case to the ballot box.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

Plans for Retail/Apartment Complex on 24th Street Unveiled

By Loren J. Bialik

Adios, Second Spanish Baptist Church. Hello, the largest development Noe Valley has encountered in decades.

If a Clement Street developer has his way—and there seems to be little neighborhood opposition—Segunda Iglesia Bautista, the two-story church next-door to Bell Market on 24th Street, will be replaced by a four-story retail and apartment complex.

As reported in the November 1994 issue of the *Voice*, Joe Cassidy, of Cassidy Construction, Inc., bid \$1.1 million for the lot at 3932 24th St., which includes a grassy front lawn, the motel-like building that houses the Spanish Church, and a smaller Victorian adjacent to it. Though closing the deal is contingent on Cassidy's obtaining city permits to demolish the existing buildings and erect a new one, that hasn't stopped him from dreaming up ambitious plans for the property.

According to blueprints drawn up by architect John Baumann, the new structure will align with existing shops on 24th Street (such as Common Scents and Noe Valley Music), and will have a modern Victorian facade, large bay windows, and



This photo montage by architectural illustrator Kahn Kay shows developer Joe Cassidy's plan for the Spanish Church property on 24th Street: a four-story complex housing three street-level shops and 19 apartments.

Photo of artist's rendering by Beverly Thorp

a tile and stucco exterior. Plans also call for a 29-foot back yard between the new building and the homes behind it on Elizabeth Street.

The proposed complex will accommodate 19 dwelling units on the third and fourth floors, 4,990 square feet of street-level commercial space, and 20 underground parking spaces. The parking spaces will be reserved for tenants, and will be accessed from a single driveway.

Though they are not sure who or what will occupy the three retail spaces on the ground floor, Claire Pilcher, attorney for the developer, said, "Several businesses have expressed interest, including a telescope shop, an AT&T telephone store, a video store, and Pete's Coffee."

Because 24th Street is classified as a special use district, it has special zoning controls which limit the type and number of retail outlets that could lease the space, Pilcher pointed out.

The 19 residential units will consist of 17 one-bedroom flats and two two-bedroom apartments, with rents ranging from \$900 to \$1,200. According to Pilcher, the units "will be built as condominiums because it's easier to obtain financing for them, but Cassidy will retain ownership and rent them out."

Asked why there was no allowance for public parking, as hinted at in Cassidy's original plan, Pilcher said, "They wanted

Candidates Get All Steamed up At Mayor's Debate

By Denise Minor

The four leading contenders for mayor of San Francisco came together in Noe Valley last month and took turns criticizing Muni, the city's Housing Authority, big campaign spending, police brutality, and the dwindling supply of state funding. But most of all, they lashed out at one another, in what many termed the most raucous political debate of the year.

Almost 700 vocal—and sometimes rude—spectators packed the James Lick Middle School auditorium on Aug. 8, a sultry Tuesday evening that seemed to lend heat to the electricity already in the air.

Contender Roberta Achtenberg, a Noe Valley resident, started the show by calling on San Franciscans to abandon "the failed policies of the failed candidacy" of Mayor Frank Jordan.

Candidate Angela Alioto followed by admonishing fellow challenger Willie Brown, in his last year as a member of the State Assembly, for accepting campaign donations from tobacco companies.

"Willie Brown, give back every penny of that dirty tobacco money!" she chided.

When his turn came, Brown blasted the city government, and by inference both Mayor Jordan and Supervisor Alioto, for

Continued on Page 5

Continued on Page 3

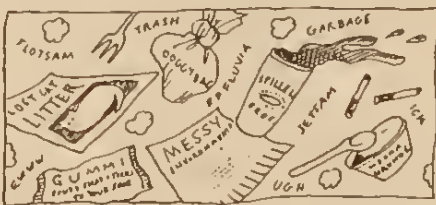
Clean up the Sidewalk

Editor:

In principle, I prefer doing business with neighborhood merchants. And were it not for the dog-littered and trash-strewn sidewalks, I would spend a lot more time and money on 24th Street.

In the absence of civic pride (which seems to have become an outdated concept), perhaps a citywide ordinance is in order requiring merchants to keep the sidewalks in front of their shops clean under penalty of citation.

Under such a law, restaurants would be required to remove all traces of garbage (e.g., cooking oils and food spills), and the myriad food and coffee shops would have to clean up after their ill-mannered customers. Stricter enforcement of existing leash and litter laws might also go a long way toward alleviating the problem.



Noe Valley is known for its cohesive community character and ability to organize when threatened. It is discouraging to see such a breach of civic aesthetics.

Business is booming on the strip, and certainly losing my meager contribution would not constitute a threat. However, maintaining a well-cared-for appearance to both visitors and locals should be its own reward.

Carole Warner

Another Vote to Rename South Van Ness for Cesar

Editor:

Thomas M. Edwards' letter in the June issue is quite right that there would be a loud fuss were someone feckless enough to push for renaming Army Street after Ronald Reagan. Thank God.

Robert Warren Cromey lives far to the north on 20th Street and cannot be expected to have an intimate knowledge of Noe Valley's sociopolitical reality.

First 24th Street was touted as appropriate for renaming after Cesar Chavez; this idea was dropped after it provoked much controversy. Then Army Street was chosen despite vigorous protests.

In both cases objectors were tagged as racists and reactionaries. Buried in all the hoopla was the suggestion that South Van Ness would make a better memorial than either 24th or Army. I like South Van Ness a lot and think it would make a very fine Calle Cesar Chavez.

Coming up with the right street for a memorial is a sadly unappreciated problem. For instance, Oakland renamed Cypress Avenue, site of the collapsed double-deck freeway destroyed by the Loma Prieta Earthquake. Nelson Mandela Parkway. It's the thought that counts, but if I were Nelson Mandela, I'd feel like I'd been given a ghastly tie by a well-meaning klutz of a relative, and I'd have to wear the wretched thing and act thankful

LETTERS 32¢

at least once or twice.

As for naming a street after Ronald Reagan, I can think of one or two, not in Noe Valley, which would be entirely appropriate.

Reg Stocking
Jersey Street

Street Signs a Reminder of Chavez's Legacy

Editor:

My name is Jesse, I'm 10 years old. I have worked over a year to get a street named after Cesar Chavez. I spoke at the Board of Supervisors meetings. I was chosen to unveil the street sign at the March 31 celebration. It was one of my proudest moments.

I'd like everybody to know why having Chavez Street is important to children. There's a big controversy on the changing of the street. I don't know why. Cesar Chavez was a civil rights leader, a pacifist. He believed in justice and change. He believed that we could change our own lives—without violence.

There are so many things that Chavez did that can't be mentioned in just one letter. Not only was he able to get higher pay, better working conditions, health and pension benefits for farmworkers, but he helped to get pesticides like DDT removed from our fruits and vegetables. I think all children should know of Chavez and other civil rights leaders.

The street signs have been changed and at no cost to the taxpayers. But if the street signs are changed back to Army Street, the cost will not only be to the taxpayers, but also to the children. The future is supposed to be ours—you've lived your lives. Please help us to grow up in a positive, non-prejudiced atmosphere. Please fight for Cesar Chavez Street.

Jesse Arreguin
St. Philip's School

A Grateful Ministry

Editor:

The creative generosity of the Noe Valley Ministry (NVM) extended family in our efforts to "Hold on to the Roof" is a delight and marvel to behold.

This community consistently demonstrated its love for the Noe Valley Ministry as a valuable neighborhood presence. For example, the simple act of Larry Kassins' passing the hat at musical events resulted in donations of \$3,700. Thirteen benefit events produced by such diverse groups as Caruso Wines, the Singing Rainbows, and musicians from the San Francisco Symphony resulted in \$4,300.

The Ministry's humble Presbyterian congregation of 84 members gave over \$20,000. Local businesses contributed to the campaign, including 57 dozen bagels from Holey Bagel.

As the campaign progressed, even seeming curmudgeons and the economically challenged stepped forth once they

found their own way of helping. Truly, this effort celebrates diversity, creativity, and the essential kindred goodness of our friends and neighbors! Thank you.

Dawn Summers
Campaign Coordinator
NVM Community Building Fund
1021 Sanchez St.

Small Cafe Deserves Its Spot on 24th Street

Editor:

As a longtime resident and one who has witnessed the changes in Noe Valley since 1969, I feel compelled to respond to a story in your last issue concerning restaurants and restaurant permits in the area.

My alarm is at the possibility of a kind of vigilante action against longstanding, small neighborhood business owners. I am writing particularly in defense of the 24th Street Cafe.

Noe Valley is well served with large, chain drugstores, coffee merchants, manicure parlors, and realty offices, but I do not feel we have an abundance of establishments serving the kind of inexpensive, unpretentious food offered at the 24th Street Cafe.

Let's indeed protect the neighborhood from the kind of overvirulent commercialism we've seen ruin other areas, but let's not target small businesses that provide a real service to residents.

John Verbeck
Duncan Street

Bomb Ended Brutal War


Editor:

Mazook, your "Rumors" columnist, reminded readers in the July 1995 *Voice* that 50 years ago this country dropped an atomic bomb "on not one, but two cities in Japan." In this not too subtle jab at the United States, he demonstrated how little he knows of Japan's conduct towards civilians throughout the war (I assume he knows how barbarous they were towards combatants).

Beginning with their sneak attack at dawn on a Sunday at Pearl Harbor, with a loss of 2,554 lives, an attack undertaken while their emissaries were engaged in peace talks with this country, Japan showed itself to be a brutal and aggressive enemy.

Cities in the Far East, including those in Manchuria, China, Korea, and the Philippines, were bombed, and the civilian populations were imprisoned, raped, and killed. The Japanese Imperial Army kidnapped Korean women and forced them into prostitution as "comfort women" providing sexual services to front-line troops. Vivisection experiments were performed on Chinese prisoners of war, and the remains of these bodies were recently unearthed, revealing, at last, a top secret.

It was clear in the later years of the war that Japan was prolonging it by using kamikaze pilots in naval battles. Young men were sent to almost certain death for



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Editorial: (415) 821-3324
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CO-PUBLISHERS/EDITORS
Sarah Smith, Jack Tipple

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS AND EDITORS
Jane Underwood, *Associate Editor*
Jeanne Alexander, Karol Barske,
Larry Beresford, Loren J. Bialik, Jim Chnstue,
Kathy Dalle-Molle, Roberta Greifer,
Florence Holub, Jeff Kaliss, Emme Levine,
Michele Lynn, Denise Minor, Lois Perillo,
Roger Rubin, Carol Small, Steve Steinberg,
Karen Topakian, Ruhama Veltfort

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Charles Kennard, *Photo Editor*
Ed Buryn, Pamela Gerard, Najib Joe Hakim,
Leo Holub, Beverly Tharp, Tom Wachs

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS
Suzanne Scott, *Director, Ad Production*
Karol Barske, Melinda Breitmeyer,
Scott Paterson

ILLUSTRATIONS
Karol Barske

ADVERTISING SALES
Steve Steinberg, *Advertising Manager*
Additional Ad Sales: Jane Underwood

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the glory of the emperor. The war which Japan began had to be ended swiftly and decisively, and an unconditional surrender—that is, a demand for the emperor to step down—was called for.

The Japanese would not agree to this, and so the U.S. decided to drop bombs to hasten the war's end instead of invading, thereby averting a loss of American lives. One of the reasons Hiroshima was selected was because it was a major military center.

The horror of the bombing and the number of casualties is almost unparalleled in human history, but it cannot be viewed as an unprovoked or isolated event. It was the culmination of years of war, and as the Civil War general William Tecumseh Sherman said, "War is hell."

Your inferred condemnation of this country's actions dishonors the memory and the sacrifices of Americans who died in this war.

Rosemarie McMichael
Miguel Street

No Novelists Need Apply

The Noe Valley Voice is looking for a few good writers to fill the shoes of ace reporter Jim Christie, who is currently hard at work on a novel. (Oh, sure, Jim, we'll believe that when we see it at Clean, Well Lighted Place.) His specialty, other than singing background vocals for the Sin Eaters, has been hard news, easy news, and baby news, i.e., zoning stories, Short Takes, and More Mouths to Feed. If you think you can help us out (yes, we do pay for items published), send a note and any clips you might have to the *Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Hope to hear from you soon. —The Eds

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Frank Jordan

Brown, Alioto, Achtenberg Gang up on Jordan

Continued from Page 1

poorly managing the budget and for showing what he termed an indifference to readily available federal funds.

"Mr. Brown, *our* budget was done on time," retorted Alioto, in reference to the state legislature's notorious reputation for running weeks past its budget deadline.

And this was all in the first 15 minutes. Supporters hooted and applauded each time their candidate scored points, with Achtenberg's fans appearing to dominate the crowd.

Jordan's camp seemed the smallest, and he often appeared ill at ease, particularly when he was booed for citing what he considered the high mark of his four-year tenure as mayor—cleaner and safer streets. But he did get in a few shots of his own.

He criticized Achtenberg first for leaving her position as city supervisor in 1992 to serve as an assistant housing secretary in the Clinton administration, and then leaving that job to run for mayor.

"I'd like to see you finish a job *just once*," said Jordan.

One Jordan jab backfired, however. He told Brown that instead of campaigning, he should be in Sacramento fighting to keep the legislature from infringing on the cities' right to enforce rent control.

"Frank, for your information, we're not in session," replied Brown, to considerable applause and laughter from the crowd.

Angela 'Hated Every Single Ride'

A target of seemingly unanimous criticism from the candidates was Muni.

"Muni is one of the worst organized departments in the city," said Alioto. "I took the bus every day for eight months last year, and I hated every single ride. I'd rather walk."

Achtenberg said that if she were elected mayor, she would completely restructure the department.

"Muni needs to be pulled apart and put back together again," she said. "I would tell upper management exactly what level of change was expected and if it weren't achieved, heads would roll."

Jordan said Muni employees were under a four-year contract, which recently came up for renewal. Therefore, he maintained, this year was the first time he had had an opportunity to negotiate changes in the transit system.

"Muni workers have high wages...and good retirement and health benefits. But it's the perks that have to change," he said. "For example, a bus driver can just decide not to come to work between 12 and 16 times a year, and no one has the right to call him and ask why."

Jordan also mentioned that when a Muni bus or train breaks down, the driver is expected to sit around until the vehicle is repaired, and cannot be asked to operate a bus on any other line.

Brown said he was "interested" to learn that this was the first time in three years the mayor had seen fit to do anything about Muni. "It's what you might call an out-of-body experience," he said.

However, Brown defended the organization by saying that of all workers on city payrolls, Muni drivers were the ones most likely to live in San Francisco. He said Muni still had a sound infrastructure, which worked well two decades ago.

"Twenty years ago the buses ran on time," said Brown. "Twenty years ago it meant something to be Muni Person of the Month."

Alioto spoke up. "Twenty years ago Joe Alioto was mayor," she said, referring to her father.



Angela Alioto

Photos by Beverly Tharp

All the candidates also came down hard on the San Francisco Housing Authority, which runs the city's subsidized housing and housing projects for low-income residents. "There have been problems in the Housing Authority in administration after administration," said Jordan.

He said he believed the situation would drastically change if the city adopted his proposal to turn over management, and at times ownership, of housing projects to tenants. Jordan also commended his newly appointed director, Dr. Shirley Thornton, saying she was capable of greatly improving the department.

Alioto chimed in that the biggest problem plaguing the Housing Authority was the commission controlling it.

"Everyone knows what a catastrophe the Housing Authority is," she said. "And it's because the people on the commission don't know what the hell they're doing."

"Commissions should be appointed with people who know and love the topic, not people who gave money to the mayor's campaign."

Alioto also criticized this summer's closing of Geneva Towers in Hunters Point. Many of the residents were left homeless, she said.

Noe Valley Barely Mentioned

One of the few topics touched upon during the evening that had particular significance to Noe Valley was the issue of commercial growth versus neighborhood conservation.

Asked whether he supported neighborhood zoning controls, Jordan stated that for 12 years the residents' organizations had been pitted against the builders and entrepreneurs, and that during numerous meetings in his office no one had left happy.

"I consider that a good sign," Jordan said. "I must be doing something right because I've tried to stay to the center."

"But I believe neighborhoods should decide their own character," he contin-

ued. "They should be able to decide the height limits for buildings, the size of yards, and what chain stores are allowed to come in."

One audience member asked Achtenberg her position on the Nov. 7 ballot measure (Prop. O) that would switch Cesar Chavez Street back to Army Street. She said she opposed the ballot initiative.

"I think [Cesar Chavez Street] is an appropriate tribute to an important leader," Achtenberg said. The rest of the candidates stayed mum.

During the question-and-answer period, Brown was called on the carpet for accepting campaign donations from tobacco companies. He replied in classic Brown fashion, beginning his answer in a slow deep voice, then raising both the pitch and the speed in a crescendo that culminated with him waving a finger in the air and proclaiming he did exactly what he had to do to keep progressives in power.

"When I became Speaker of the House, I also became leader of the state Democratic Party. I raised money from every single source I could, and I shielded the other candidates from criticism as best I could," he said. "I kept a majority Democratic rule in the legislature through three Republican governorships and two Republican presidencies."

"I don't smoke," he continued emphatically. "And I have sponsored and passed legislation that imposed a two-cent [per pack] increase in cigarette prices, using the funds for breast cancer research." To strong applause, Brown also declared he had sponsored and passed some of the toughest anti-smoking ordinances in the state of California.

Also during the question-and-answer session, Alioto was asked how she would balance the financial interests of downtown businesses with the neighborhoods.

"Am I the only person up here who thinks we've been okay to downtown in-

Continued on Page 4



Roberta Achtenberg



Willie Brown



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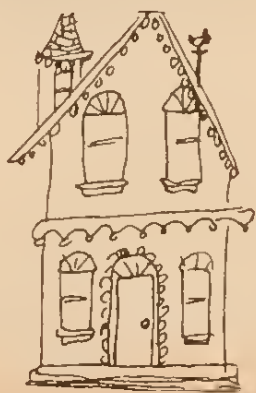
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Mayor's Debate a Heated Affair

Continued from Page 3

terests?" she said. "Downtown interests don't make San Francisco, it's the neighborhoods.

"San Francisco's backbone is the small business," she continued. "The downtown businesses should count themselves lucky to have an address that says San Francisco."

Alioto said she was successful in convincing the city to rescind the Small Business Tax, and would continue to do everything she could to promote the little guy.

Brown also answered the question. "I believe this city has been hostile to downtown businesses," he said, with a pause, "and to small businesses.

"Over 36,000 jobs have left the city in the past two years," Brown continued. "And Pac Bell will leave too." He reiterated an assertion he'd made earlier in the evening: that he was the one candidate with the leadership qualities needed to convince businesses to stay.

As for job flight, Mayor Jordan offered a strikingly different statistic from Brown's. He claimed that the city saw an increase of 5,000 new jobs in the past two years, that construction was up 31 percent, and that unemployment was below state levels.

"I have helped to create a strong business climate," said Jordan.

Jordan the Odd Man Out

Later, Achtenberg asked Brown whether he supported a proposal she favors, Supervisor Tom Ammiano's reform package, which includes a stipulation that lawsuit settlements for police brutality come out of the Police Department's own budget.

Brown replied that police brutality should be punished on a case-by-case basis and not by docking the entire Police Department. "I don't want my public safety compromised by taking away money used for catching rapists and murderers just because of some rogue cop's behavior," Brown said.

Both Alioto and Jordan concurred.

Alioto also found herself on the oppo-

site side of the fence from everyone else when she asked Jordan what he would do to protect the Presidio, which is scheduled to become a trust whose board will be controlled by a group of corporations.

"The Presidio is the most gorgeous piece of property on earth," she said. "It could become the Disneyland of the north. Don't give it away to those seven corporations."

Jordan replied that under the trust the Presidio would remain a national park and that with the corporations' backing it could continue to operate the golf course, medical center, and other amenities.

Brown agreed.

"Trust [U.S. Congresswoman] Nancy Pelosi," he said. "Pelosi and [U.S. Senators] Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer have labored over this. The only way to protect the Presidio from the likes of Newt and Dole is to put it in public trust."

Achtenberg also said she supported the public trust idea.

But Jordan found himself left out in the cold on perhaps the most important issue of the night: who should be elected mayor of San Francisco. Although they had picked on one another all evening, all three challengers said they believed Jordan should be resoundingly voted out of office Nov. 7. They also vowed to support the one candidate among them who would stand against Jordan in any runoff.

Even Achtenberg promised to throw her weight behind Willie Brown, should he be the top vote-getter. "It is important to change this administration," she said. "I will support whoever is selected to run against the incumbent."

The debate, which was moderated by KQED political commentator Betva Davis, was sponsored by several city Democratic clubs, including the Noe Valley Democratic Club. The local club plans to hold its endorsement meeting Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. All are welcome.

Residents should also note that Upper Noe Neighbors will co-sponsor a second mayoral forum Sept. 28 at the Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets. The show starts at 7 p.m. (Call 641-5989 for further information.) □



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Public Parking Dropped from Condo Complex

Continued from Page 1

to put in public parking, but because of the ramp and the turning radius and other engineering problems, it's impossible to do, and they had to give up the idea."

Cassidy confirmed that a public parking garage had been scrapped. But even without it, he said, "It will take five to seven months to complete the project, with a cost of \$900,000 just for the garage and \$2 million for the building." Construction will entail re-grading the site, extracting 3,000 cubic yards of soil, and excavating to a depth of about 20 feet.

Assuming the permit process goes without a hitch—and that's a pretty big assumption these days—Cassidy anticipates starting construction in May or June of 1996.

To help him wade through the bureaucracy, he has hired Bruce Baumann (son of architect John Baumann) to act as his City Planning consultant. (Incidentally, Bruce Baumann and Claire Pilcher are also involved in defending a controversial development at 21st and Sanchez streets—see this month's "Rumors" column and story in the upcoming *Voice*.)

In June of this year, Cassidy and Baumann filed for a conditional use permit to demolish the church and adjacent Victorian, and construct a new mixed-use building on the lot. The city's Planning Department then conducted an environmental impact evaluation. In a "Preliminary Negative Declaration" issued Aug. 18, City Planner Hillary Gitelman concluded that "this project could not have a significant effect on the environment."

Not everyone agrees. At the July Friends

of Noe Valley meeting, Cassidy and Baumann unveiled their plans, hoping to garner community support. But Friends and neighbors voiced their concerns about traffic, parking, pollution, and population density problems on 24th Street.

Eleanore Gerhardt, who is a board member of Friends, said following the meeting, "The building is very attractive, but my concerns are that it's too dense. Too many apartments will create further traffic problems on 24th Street."

Peter Gass, another Friend, was also hesitant to lend his approval. However, he noted that some kind of development on the property was inevitable. "We'll miss the open space and lawn, but we've seen this coming for a long time," he said.

Jaime Arbona and Anne Caird, who own a house on Elizabeth Street directly behind the church, were out of town when the Friends met. "I wasn't aware of the proportions of the development," Arbona said when asked his reaction.

Now that he's been apprised of the situation, Arbona is somewhat apprehensive. "The church is only active Saturday and Sunday, but with stores and apartments there, we might lose our privacy," he said. He also voiced fears that the noise of construction behind his back fence would make it hard for him to operate his home radio consulting business and for the couple's 2-year-old to play in their back yard.

Nevertheless, in this valley of social activism and general opposition to developers, the community has appeared rather complacent. Are residents focusing their attention on the 21st and Sanchez development, which has generated more strife? Or, as several people noted, are they just pleased it's not Blockbuster Video who's moving in?

At the end of last year, rumor had it that Blockbuster was interested in buying the property (*Voice* September 1994). And according to Pilcher, the video chain had

offered the church \$50,000 more than Cassidy for this prime piece of real estate.

Pilcher, who finds herself in the delicate position of being both the attorney for Cassidy and a founder of Friends of Noe Valley, a group she admits "never had positive views toward developers," thinks "the building will be a pleasant surprise for the neighborhood. I know Cassidy to be a first-rate builder, and he's a man of his word."

Readers can view a sample of Cassidy's work at 3814 24th St., the building that replaced the storefront which housed the old Philosopher's Stone bookstore.

And as with any building project, neighbors will have an opportunity to express their opinion—positive or negative. The "Negative Declaration" was mailed to nearby property owners and to neighborhood organizations like the Friends, who expressed an interest in the proposed development. But anyone else can review the report, suggest changes, or appeal the Planning Department's findings.

In addition, there will be public hearing before the Planning Commission in mid-September. (Call 558-6422 for the exact date and time.)

The Planning Department files are also open to public view. Call Hillary Gitelman at 558-6384 or Gerald Green at 558-6365, or drop by the City Planning Department at 1660 Mission St., near South Van Ness and Duboce. □



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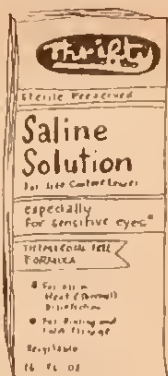


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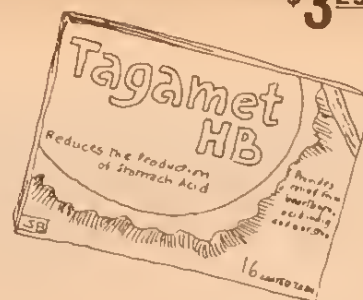


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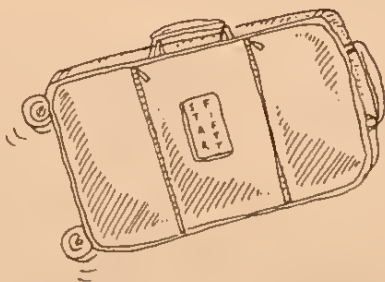


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Chavez Street Put to a Vote

Continued from Page 1

whose family lived in Noe Valley until 1993. Arreguin was passing out pro-Chavez flyers after mass at St. Philip's Church recently when an elderly parishioner grabbed a flyer from his hand. "The man told me, 'You should stop this shit. It's just a bunch of crap and you're not going to win,'" the youngster says.

"Also, when I spoke about why Army Street should be named after Cesar Chavez at the Board of Supervisors meeting, some people laughed when I said I thought Chavez was a great man," recalls Arreguin. "They said, 'Why do you want to do this to our neighborhood? Why don't you do it to your *own* neighborhood?' They made fun of my race and it hurt me."

One can't help but wonder what Cesar Chavez, whose non-violent actions as head of the United Farm Workers were an inspiration to thousands of Americans, would have thought of all the name-calling. Fierce allegations — of racism, militarism, NIMBYism, backroom deal-making, and political grandstanding — have been leveled by both sides.

About the only thing the two camps can agree on is that the bickering should stop.

"It's a tragedy that there hasn't been any dialogue, but just a lot of name-calling," acknowledges Friedman. "It didn't have to be this way."

"I am disappointed and sad this is happening," agrees Eva Royale, a regional manager for the UFW and a member of the Save Cesar Chavez Street Coalition, the group on the other side of the fence. "It's completely unnecessary."

Prop. O on the Ballot

In August, after a four-month petition drive, Friedman's group secured more than 18,000 signatures — almost double the number required to put the issue on the November election ballot. Dubbed Proposition O, the measure demands simply that the city restore the Army Street name and reinstall the old street signs.

According to Friedman, more than 400 residents, representing neighborhoods throughout San Francisco, volunteered to collect signatures for the repeal — that despite the fact that the Cesar Chavez Street signs had been up since March 31, the late labor leader's birthday (he would have been 68).

One of the petitioners is Jane LeBaron, a longtime Army Street resident. She believes the city supervisors should show more respect for tradition. "Army Street is 145 years old. I've met people who were born and raised on this street. It's part of people's identity and San Francisco's history."

Furthermore, she notes, "If we don't prevail [in November], it could open the door for the supervisors to rename other important streets, and San Francisco would be in danger of losing its identity."

But like Friedman and Royale, LeBaron is also sorry about the dissension the issue has caused. "Cesar Chavez was a nice man and did good things, and I don't think he would approve of all this divisiveness happening in his name."

Now, as the fall campaign gears up, both the pro-Army and pro-Chavez groups are planning rallies to seek support from voters. The Chavez Street Coalition has even enlisted the help of a political consultant.

"We are going to have to put together a full campaign," says Royale. "It's a waste of time and resources. We're going to have to spend thousands of dollars just to keep what we already have."

Residents Resent 'Railroading'

The Chavez — Army Street brouhaha started back in 1994, at a Dec. 15 meeting of the lame-duck Board of Supervisors' Housing and Land Use Committee. After hearing from a number of Noe Valley residents who opposed the name change, the committee proposed a King Solomon-like solution: they elected to rename the wider, more industrial section of Army Street from Maryland to Guerrero after Cesar Chavez, while retaining the Army Street name on the Noe Valley part of the road, from Guerrero to Douglass Street.

However, less than a month later, on Jan. 9, the newly reconstituted Board of Supervisors — one of the most politically liberal in years — threw out the compromise and voted unanimously to rename *all* of Army Street after Chavez.

Supervisor Susan Leal, a Noe Valley resident who originally favored the brokered solution, gave an impassioned speech in favor of renaming all of Army Street at the full board meeting. After the meeting, Leal told the *Voice* that she had been swayed by the many petitions, letters, visits, and phone calls she'd received in the wake of the original hearing.

Royale, who lives on Florida Street near the Potrero Hill end of Cesar Chavez (Army) Street, explains what happened from her vantage point.

"We [the pro-Chavez Street group] went and got a feeling from residents about supporting a name change for the entire street. We set up information tables at different locations, including in front of Bell Market on 24th Street. We talked to residents who lived on the street. We got endorsements from elected officials. We got people to call the supervisors and write letters to them.

"I feel we went through the whole process correctly to get the supervisors' support," she continued. "Now we are go-

ing to have to put in more time and energy to *keep* the street name. The signs have already been changed. What is going to be the cost to change them back?"

Mitchell Friedman tells a different story. He says his requests and those of other pro-Army Street citizens to meet with individual supervisors prior to the Jan. 9 vote were ignored.

"I'm convinced it was a political deal, done behind the scenes by organized labor and special-interest groups. I was on *Forum* [an interview show hosted by Michael Krasny on KQED-Radio] with Susan Leal, and all she could say was that we were afraid of change and that she had listened to us. [But] we didn't have our say. There was only an hour of arguments before the decision was speeded through. Let's face it, the fact that we got 18,000 signatures on our petition gives credence to the belief that a lot of people don't like what's going on and are frustrated with the supervisors."

LeBaron echoes Friedman's sentiments. "I'm incensed about the way the supervisors railroaded this issue through. Even at the December meeting, they didn't pay much attention to us. It was clear they'd already made up their minds. This was my first encounter with city government, and it was terrible, very distressing."

The *Voice* requested an interview with Leal, but she did not return our call. Leal's aide Rosa Lizarde later told us that Leal was not giving interviews on the subject of Chavez Street. "She is opposing the ballot measure," says Lizarde, "but our office is not working on the issue now. We've moved on to other issues. We're very involved with the teen curfew now. We'd be happy to talk with you about that."

Changing It Back Costs Money Too

San Franciscans to Save Army Street

Continued on Next Page

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Chavez-Army Spat Brings Out Worst in Everyone

Continued from Previous Page

is also distressed about the cost of replacing the Army Street freeway signs on highways 280 and 101. The money has not yet been spent, but it has been estimated at anywhere from \$23,000 to \$890,000. (According to the Department of Parking and Traffic, San Francisco to date has shelled out approximately \$2,200 for erecting the Chavez Street signs in the city.)

The Army Street group also believes additional costs—for changing property records, maps, city documents, and Muni placards, and for resetting the name of the street in the concrete sidewalks—need to be calculated.

On the other hand, a flyer being circulated by the Chavez Coalition, which hopes "to dispel misunderstandings and misinformation surrounding the renaming of Cesar Chavez Street," states, "Despite a wildly inflated first estimate of \$890,000, CalTrans retracted their figure and informed city officials in February that the total cost to replace all freeway signs will be \$60,000 or less, a cost which will be paid through the contributions of cash, labor, and materials pledged by labor unions and individual citizens."

The flyer goes on to note that "there is one cost associated with the name change—the \$50,000 that the people of San Francisco will spend on a potential ballot measure to change the name back. According to estimates by the city assessor, it will cost \$50,000 for a ballot measure to change the name back to Army Street. Unfortunately, supporters of such a ballot measure do not seem concerned about this needless expenditure of money."

"That number's totally wrong!" counters Friedman. "It's basically going to cost a few thousand dollars to put the issue on the ballot. Besides, our paid ballot arguments, plus their paid arguments, will probably end up covering the cost."

As for the freeway signs, Friedman says: "First it's going to cost \$23,000. Then we hear \$900,000. Then \$90,000. Now \$60,000. Which one is it? I don't think the true cost is known yet. My personal take on this issue is that it's insulting to me as a citizen and as a taxpayer that the supervisors are spending time and money to do this. Plus, the cost that's been stated just covers the street signs. It doesn't cover the costs borne by residents who live on the street."

Although the renaming of Army to Cesar Chavez Street will be phased in over five years and the street signs currently carry both names—the word "(Army)" is in small type beneath "Cesar Chavez St."—Friedman argues that the name change has been needlessly disruptive to both residents and businesses.

He is among several Chavez-Army Street residents who run small businesses out of their homes and must incur the added expense of changing letterheads, sending out notices to customers, and altering addresses on their invoices and other forms.

But Noe Street resident Rick Hauptman, who also runs a home-based business and is a member of the Save Chavez Street Coalition, maintains, "I just moved and changed all of my stationery, and it wasn't much of an expense. You run out and need to redo these things at least once every five years anyway."

"Chavez was an important man," Hauptman adds, "and this is a fitting way to honor him. I'm proud that the street goes from a predominantly brown-skin neighborhood through a predominantly white neighborhood."

Then Let's Rename Your Street

Which brings us to one of the touchiest issues in this debate: how to avoid being a NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) on the one hand, or More-Politically-Cor-

rect-Than-Thou on the other.

Ever since former Supervisor Bill Maher first flirted with the idea of renaming a street for Chavez—he originally proposed 24th Street—residents of Noe Valley and the Mission have been tossing the street name around like a hot potato.

Some have suggested it would be more appropriate to rename South Van Ness Avenue for Chavez, or perhaps Dolores Park, or the new Main Library, currently under construction downtown.

"We suggested naming Middle Drive in Golden Gate Park after Cesar Chavez," recalls LeBaron. "He'd be in good company along with streets named after John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King. The celebration to honor his birthday could be held in the park."

But John Barbey, president of the Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association and an expert on San Francisco street names, thinks Army Street remains an appropriate choice.

"I think it is an improvement to name the street after Cesar Chavez. Chavez was a very unusual labor leader. He was very diplomatic and lived very simply."

What's more, Barbey says, "There's no real history attached to Army Street. It wasn't selected to honor military heroes, and Navy Street, which used to run parallel to Army, was replaced by 26th Street in 1869. I think it would be condescending to rename Dolores Park, which already has a Latin name."

"As for the library," Barbey continues, "Chavez was self-educated. He wasn't an academic man. It would be patronizing to name a library after him."

Adds Royale, "The people who wanted to honor Cesar Chavez decided to name a street after him. People can still go ahead and also name a building or a park after him, but the street has already been renamed."

Although the Save Chavez Coalition has the support of three leading mayoral candidates—Roberta Achtenberg, Angela Alioto, and Willie Brown—both the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *San Francisco Independent* have published editorials in recent months supporting the Save Army Street effort.

Chavez Signs Are Collector's Items

Since Chavez died in April of 1993, 14 cities, including Los Angeles, Minneapo-

lis, Austin, Tex., and Tepaneca, Nicaragua, have named streets in his honor. But, like in San Francisco, the renamings have not been without controversy.

In 1993, not long after Chavez's death, the Fresno City Council changed Kings Canyon Avenue to Cesar E. Chavez Avenue. The new name lasted only seven weeks, and the council reversed its decision at a night meeting attended by a huge crowd. Afterward, council members said they should have asked for more public input before they changed the name.

Meanwhile, the debate is still on in Berkeley, where the council voted last year to name something for Chavez. Some citizens have proposed renaming University Avenue, one of the city's biggest and best-known streets.

Earlier this year, voters in Lansing, Mich., decided to repeal their city council's resolution to rename Grand Avenue after Cesar Chavez. The street bore the name Chavez for one year, and the Lansing lawyer who led the petition drive has offered \$1,000 toward a new memorial for Chavez. Ironically, since voters decided to change the name back, the 11 "Cesar Chavez Street" signs have become a hot commodity. One was stolen, and the city is planning to sell the rest for \$3 to \$10 on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Where Are You, Jimmy Carter?

Back in San Francisco, Eva Royale says she feels "confident voters will oppose the initiative. Our biggest task before the election is to try to educate people who are misinformed on the issue."

Like Royale, John Barbey argues that "it would be a tragic way of securing regress if voters approve this initiative."

Although Mitchell Friedman thinks the vote will be close, "I just have a vision in my mind that the Army Street signs are going to go back up," he says.

"The tragedy in all this is that Cesar Chavez was known for bravery, courage, and inclusion. Many of those ideals have been bashed because of this street issue. It's become more about politics and symbolism than anything else. Is this is what we're going to remember about Chavez? He wouldn't have wanted any of this."

No matter what the outcome of the election, Friedman says he plans to call for "a summit with both sides, so we can work together to honor Chavez." □



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Noe's Two Fire Stations: One's Fixed, The Other's In the Shop

By Loren J. Bialik

On March 23, 1994, Fire Station 11, one of Noe Valley's two fire stations, was shut down for seismic retrofitting and other building improvements. Built in 1956, the structure did not meet the earthquake safety standards imposed after the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake.

Last May, Fire Station 24, the other neighborhood station, closed in order to undergo a similar renovation. So what's the status of our stations now?

Station 11, located on 26th Street between Church and Dolores, reopened on May 22, 1995, just prior to Station 24's closing. According to Battalion Chief Scott Peoples, a 21-year veteran of the department, work crews at 26th Street "seismically retrofitted where it was identified improvements were needed, removed asbestos, replaced the three steel apparatus doors with lighter ones, installed a new emergency generator, and added a ventilation system for removing the diesel fumes that accumulate from the fire engines."

In addition, they made the entire building handicapped-accessible, and reconfigured the bath and dressing facilities to accommodate both men and women firefighters.

According to Capt. Bill Shore, who oversees the Fire Department's seismic



The spiffy new 26th Street Fire Station temporarily houses firefighters from Station 24, while it's shut down for repairs. Photo by Nojib Joe Hakim

retrofitting (and who happens to have been born and raised in Noe Valley, just around the corner from Station 11), the 26th Street renovation cost around \$700,000 and was funded by voter-approved bond measures.

On May 25, three days after Station 11 was back in operation, Station 24, the historic firehouse at 100 Hoffman Ave., was closed for repairs. Built in 1913, Station 24, also known as Hoffman Station, is one of the oldest, or perhaps the oldest, firehouse still in use in San Francisco. (Another firehouse on Potrero Hill claims that distinction too.)

In 1992, city officials considered tearing it down and constructing a new facility, but a neighborhood outcry to save the landmark, combined with an influx of bond money to refurbish the fire stations, stayed the executioner's hand.

Now three months into its renovation, Station 11 is but a shell of what it once was. Although the outside brick walls remain, as well as the herringbone-patterned brick floor, everything else has been gutted, including the roof.

Shore notes that the city plans to add a second garage to the south side of the existing building, which was formerly used

as a parking lot. The planning code requires that the add-on look sufficiently different from the old building, he said, to show it was designed by a different architect and built at a different time. This enclosure will house fire engines and other equipment, which can be utilized if fire apparatus fails in other parts of the city.

Shore estimates it will cost \$1.5 million to renovate Hoffman Station, again with funds coming from voter-approved bond measures. Station 24 is expected to reopen in June of 1996.

Continued on Page 10

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Fire Station 24, the historic station at Hoffman and Alvarado streets, has been completely gutted in preparation for a major renovation. It should reopen in June 1996. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

26th Street Fire Station Has Full House

Continued from Page 9

Although both fire stations suffered only minor damage in the Loma Prieta quake, they must be adequately equipped for the next big one, or for any other large-scale disaster. As most San Franciscans know, in the 1906 Earthquake and Fire it was the fire and not the earthquake itself that wreaked the most havoc on the city. And in 1989, Noe Valley residents could see smoke clear across town from fires burning in the Marina District.

Fire Department officials are unable to pinpoint exactly what magnitude quake a renovated station can survive, but according to Shore, all structures that undergo retrofitting are "reinforced to current building code, which is in compliance with state requirements for emergency facilities."

Whenever a firehouse closes, even temporarily, residents who are served by that station may feel concern. But Chief Peoples reassures us, "Other stations overlap emergency services to cover for closed stations. Station 20 at Olympic and Clarendon also [in addition to Station 11] protects the area that was covered by Station 24."

The newly reopened 26th Street Fire Station has 37 firefighters, four of whom

are women. In addition, 15 of the firefighters displaced from the Hoffman Station are now sharing quarters with the men and women on 26th Street.

Firefighters typically work a 24-hour shift, then have two days off. While waiting to respond to a fire or other emergency, they are responsible for maintaining the firehouse and equipment.

The city provides beds and a stove, but not much else for those who live and work at the firehouse. The firefighters supply their own bedding, dishes, cookware, refrigerator, furniture, and other essentials. Noe Valley residents have even spotted firefighters scouring local garage sales in search of furnishings for the newly remodeled fire station.

When asked about this, Chief Peoples shrugged and said, "There's no rule I can

think of that would keep the city from providing necessities. [But] it's always been taken care of by the firefighters."

Peoples pointed out that San Francisco firefighters often do things that go above and beyond the call of duty. He noted that Battalion Chief Robert Boudoures, from the 26th Street Station, recently took time off to volunteer in war-torn Bosnia. "He went there to assist them in coming up with an emergency protocol to transport the injured to medical facilities."

"Whether their community is perceived as Noe Valley or Bosnia," Peoples continued, "firefighters serve the community with pride."

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POLICE BEAT

Summer Roundup

By Officer Lois Perillo

This month's Police Beat column is a doubleheader, covering incidents occurring in both June and July. So grab a cup of coffee and prepare to enter the all-too-real world of crime (and capture) in your neighborhood. My thanks to those who came forward as witnesses. You've made a difference.

Six Robberies in June and July

There were four reported robberies within my area of Noe Valley during the month of June, and two robberies during July, as compared with only one robbery in May.

On June 5 at about 1 p.m., a 50-year-old woman who was waiting for a bus on the 700 block of Grand View Avenue was robbed of her shoulder bag by a 17-year-old male. The suspect approached from behind, grabbed the bag's strap, and yanked until the strap broke. The woman lost her balance and fell to the ground, while the suspect fled in a waiting vehicle, which may have been taken in an earlier carjacking. The woman sustained no injuries and was helped by several nearby residents.

A different 50-year-old woman suffered a cut finger during another June robbery, in which the 25-year-old male suspect also attempted to steal her car. The woman had parked and remained within her car on the 1200 block of Diamond when she first noticed the suspect, as he passed her walking south at 8 a.m. on June 20. The suspect turned around and waved at the woman, who subsequently exited her car and walked up her front steps carrying a daypack and keys.

A few moments later, the woman felt a yank on her pack and screamed. The suspect grabbed the woman's pack and keys, cutting her finger as he ripped the keys from her hand. He then attempted to steal the woman's car, but was confronted by a neighbor. A contractor working nearby was drawn to the scene by the woman's yelling, and followed the suspect when he fled on an outbound Muni bus.

Officer Roland Tolosa went to the aid of the woman on Diamond, then broadcast the suspect's description on the police radio. Officers located the bus at Cortland and Andover, but the suspect had fled and was lost in the area. However, Officer Bruce Gendron found the woman's pack and keys, which he returned. Further investigation revealed that this suspect may be responsible for numerous strongarm robberies on Potrero Hill.

On June 23 at about 7:30 p.m., a 24-year-old woman who was waiting for the J-Church car at the 24th Street stop was robbed by a 32-year-old man who, accord-

ing to the police report, intimidated her into handing over her money. The woman said she had initially seen the suspect seated inside a small black pickup truck.

In the last robbery of June, which took place about 1 a.m. on June 28, a 19-year-old man was hit over the head with a beer bottle when he was accosted by six suspects in an attempted carjacking at Dolores and Chavez-Army streets. The targeted man successfully fought off the suspects, however, striking one with a "cluh." The suspects ran away south on Dolores, and the targeted man refused medical aid.

The two robberies of July both involved juvenile suspects.

A 12-year-old boy from Hoover Middle School was robbed of unspecified property on July 6 at 2 p.m. by four males about his age while he was walking near James Lick Middle School, at Castro and 25th streets.

In the second incident, on July 18 at 11 p.m., a 33-year-old woman was targeted by a 17-year-old male in an attempted robbery at Noe and 24th streets.

Local Man Arrested in Burglary

The number of reported burglaries within my area of Noe Valley dipped to 11 in June, down from 19 in May. It declined even further in July, dropping to 5.

Of the June burglaries, five were of houses, five of apartments, and one of a garage. In July, there were three burglaries of apartments, one of a restaurant, and one of a house.

A 37-year-old resident of 25th Street, whom many Noe merchants know as the "Love-Hate" man because of the distinctive tattoos on his fingers, was arrested and charged with residential burglary on June 2 at 10:20 a.m., after alert community members saw him and a 34-year-old male companion jump over their neighbor's fence on the 1100 block of Sanchez Street. The witnesses called police and remained nearby to help identify the suspects, who were apprehended by Officers Dave Elliot and Tom Vellone as they exited the burglary site.

The police officers found that both men had burglary tools. The younger suspect, who was on parole for burglary, also had narcotics paraphernalia.

Both men were charged with burglary, a felony, and were held in custody at San Bruno Jail, pending a late-August Superior Court appearance. The local man is also set to appear on one count of shoplifting from Woolworth's on Mission Street and one count of theft with a prior conviction from Just for Fun on 24th Street.

In another burglary, on July 5 at 8:40 a.m., a man was arrested after he broke into a house in the 3700 block of 22nd Street.

Auto Boosts Anger

Many of us have been the victim of sneaks who break into our vehicles in the middle of the night and take our stuff. I myself was "hit" recently while hiking on Mount Tam during broad daylight.

Thinking back, I now remember the guy. He was the one making some ad-

justment to his engine while the rest of us pulled into the trailhead parking lot, readying to abandon our cars for the day. The good news is that the Mount Tam rangers and bordering sheriff's departments take this sort of crime as a sin against their mountain. They joined in an "operation" that netted one auto booster and much stolen/recovered property. All I got back, though, was my purple carabiner (spring-loading clasp).

Noe Valley clocks in with a substantial number of auto boosts, about 20 a month. Our good news is that six people were caught trying to break into cars in four separate incidents during June and July.

While patrolling the 800 block of Castro on June 6 at 5 a.m., Sergeant Tom Newland spotted a man attempting to conceal a tire iron. This caused the sergeant to initiate an investigation, which led to two more suspects, a target vehicle without tires and rims, and a suspect vehicle containing those tires and rims.

Two 18-year-old men were arrested and charged with three felonies, and one 17-year-old was charged with a felony. The men were San Francisco residents, listing their addresses as John Muir Drive and Brunswick and Thornton streets. The two adults are scheduled to appear in Municipal Court on Aug. 30.

A 24-year-old man, who was given probation after pleading guilty to felony auto burglary in February of this year, was arrested on the same charge on June 29 at 2 a.m., while breaking into a car at Clipper and Noe streets. He remains in custody pending his probation revocation hearing.

The capture was accomplished with the help of a local resident who first saw the suspect sitting on a neighbor's retaining wall. The witness next saw the suspect bend a band of metal, then walk to a neighbor's car and insert the band in the door. After rapping on his house window to interrupt the crime, the witness called police, provided a description, and reported that the suspect was walking east on Clipper from Castro Street.

Officers Valerie Mathews and Elisha Turner arrived, searched the area, and found a nylon bag on the sidewalk near Clipper and Noe, which led them to search the surrounding cars. The officers found a car with a broken rear passenger window and the suspect hiding crouched inside. They then took him into custody.

Police arrested three suspects, including an adult who was apparently schooling two teens in auto burglary, on July 9 at 3:45 p.m., after several people saw the older man break into a merchant's car parked on Castro Street between 25th and Clipper.

One witness first saw the three suspects "peering into parked cars" and continued watching them as "they huddled together in conversation and looked up and down the street, then back at the car." As a second witness watched, the 24-year-old suspect made a wrenching motion at the car's front passenger door and entered the car, while the 15- and 16-year-old suspects leaned on the rear of the boosted car, keeping watch. At one point, a pedestri-

an walked nearby, and the teen suspects yelled at one another in a probable attempt to draw the walker's attention from the older man's activity. The witnesses saw the older suspect put an item from the car into his daypack, exit the car, "high-five" the two teens, and "yelp and cheer in apparent celebration."

Meanwhile, one witness had called police while the crime was in progress. Sergeant Art Borges and Officers John Evans and John Robertson found the suspects at Sanchez and Clipper streets. All three were charged with auto burglary and conspiracy. They gave their addresses as South Van Ness, Folsom, and 27th streets.

The adult suspect, who had been released on his own recognizance, failed to appear Aug. 15 in Municipal Court on two felony counts and one misdemeanor. The judge scheduled another court date for Sept. 15, issued and stayed a bench warrant, and set bail for \$100, which is less than the \$104 average fine for a moving violation. Go figure.

A 37-year-old resident of the 1600 block of Market Street was arrested while in possession of stolen property after witnesses alerted police that he had broken into a parked car at 21st and Guerrero on July 12 at 10:40 p.m.

Responding to the call, Officers Sandy Ganster and Gavin McEachern spotted the suspect at Valencia and Hill streets, carrying a child's car seat. They also found a hypodermic needle in his possession. After one of the witnesses identified the suspect, the man was booked on two felony charges, scheduled for a felony hearing in Municipal Court 11, and released on his own recognizance.

Where Are They Now?

The two men arrested at 24th and Sanchez Nov. 11, 1994, remain in custody at San Bruno Jail, charged with four second-degree robberies, two aggravated assaults, and two receiving stolen property and conspiracy charges.

One of the two men arrested for scrawling graffiti on 24th Street last November (and the one who had requested a jury trial) withdrew his plea and was granted diversion by the court. The second man had entered diversion immediately following the arrest.

The 33-year-old man arrested at Chantanooga and 22nd streets on June 8 for being under the influence of a controlled substance was granted diversion in Municipal Court 16. He must make a court appearance on Nov. 3, to allow the judge to assess his progress.

The Return of the Nasty Man

I know by now most of you remember the 37-year-old "nasty man" who stole from the Noe Valley Walgreens and broke the store's door when confronted. He pled guilty in May and was placed on probation. Well...he was recently arrested for shoplifting at the Mission Street Walgreens, and the District Attorney's Office has filed for a motion to revoke his probation.

Until next time, be safe. See you on patrol. □

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Community Store Faces Eviction

By Steve Steinberg

One of Noe Valley's most venerable institutions, the Noe Valley Community Store, faced the prospect of going out of business last month after having been served with eviction papers by its landlord.

Staff and customers of the organic grocery, a Noe Valley landmark at 29th and Sanchez streets for the past 22 years, expressed sadness and concern over the fate of the store.

"This is like my house," said Alejandro Robles, one of the store's collective partners.

"I feel terrible," said customer Ann Rovere, a 28th Street resident. "The store is a real service to the community. I hope it doesn't dissolve."

Although the Community Store has had to confront growing competition from similar health food stores in the past few years, its own fiscal "miscalculations" may have contributed to its current plight.

The Noe Valley Community Store's problems began last April when its rent check bounced. Although the store immediately made good on the check, according to collective member Alan Weedy, damage was evidently done in the eyes of the landlord.

Then, said Weedy, the store's annual "summer slump" began, with business barely crawling along as many customers left town on vacation during June, July, and August.

Without asking permission of the landlord, Paul Chow, the store began paying its \$1,400-a-month rent in two installments. Weedy said Chow did not appear to object to this change in the method of payment.

But at the beginning of July, with the second June rent installment still owing, Weedy, who takes care of much of the store's paperwork, went on vacation without having sent in the check. No one else mailed in the rent while he was gone.

"We're not the most organized," Weedy admitted.

Around July 10, the Community Store received a demand for payment from Chow. They promptly sent off their check for \$700, but still found themselves in arrears for July.

Shortly thereafter they received their eviction notice, which stated that the store was no longer complying with the terms of the lease. It gave them 30 days to vacate, until Aug. 18.

"I think [the landlord] decided we weren't a good risk any longer," Weedy said. He added, however, that the store had always maintained a good relationship with Chow. "His wife shopped here, and he always expressed sympathy for us," Weedy said.

But Weedy also said that Chow regarded the building as an investment opportunity, and might have purchased it with an eye toward a quick turnover. For that reason, Weedy noted, Chow would only give the Community Store a month-to-month lease after he took over ownership in 1989.

Despite the landlord's alleged commercial interest in the site, the rent has remained the same during the six years Chow has owned the store.

"The rent is reasonable," said Weedy, adding, however, that the store couldn't afford to pay any more.

Chow could not be reached for comment, but his attorney Martin Eisenberg said that "correcting the rent situation would not change the owner's decision to have the property vacated."

In the meantime, the Community Store's collective members have decided to buy themselves a month or so by taking the eviction to court.

They intend to argue that having been a tenant acting in good faith for so many years, they should be given an adequate amount of time to find a new location.

Weedy said that by going to court, they may also find out Chow's true intentions regarding the storefront.

A court procedure could delay a final eviction by weeks or even months, Eisenberg noted.

While the store fights immediate eviction, the collective's partners are also deciding whether they want to relocate in Noe Valley.

A few weeks after the eviction order was served, the owner of a building on Church Street offered to rent space to the collective in what was at various times a church and a store, next to Mia's Flowers at Church and 27th streets.

The building is presently empty and also has a residential flat upstairs.

Weedy said the site could be converted into a market if sufficient funding were forthcoming from the community.

And so far, he said, the neighborhood has been very generous in terms of loans and other financial aid.

"People want us to continue," Weedy says. But the store is holding off accepting too much in the way of outside help until the collective can assess the pros and cons of moving to a new location. "We need to find out if the [Church Street] site is still zoned for a store," Weedy said.

The owner of the proposed new site also wants the store to be responsible for the management of the flat above the store, in effect making the Community Store a landlord, something the collective is reluctant to do, Weedy said.

One Community Store shopper, Jane Graven, who comes from the Sunnyside District to shop at the market, said she thought the move to Church Street would be a good idea, particularly since it would give the store a "more commercially viable space" and better foot traffic. (Eric's, the popular Chinese restaurant, is nearby.)

Members of the collective discussed the store's situation and prospects with neighbors at a community meeting held at St. Paul's Church on Aug. 17.

The Noe Valley Community Store is a product of the sixties, conceived of at a time when many counterculture people were setting up "food conspiracies," alternative stores where "people, not profit" was the motto.

First opened in 1973, the Community Store has always been operated by collective members, not owners, who share in the responsibilities and decision-making. Currently, there are five members, and no one person is in charge.

In addition, four alternate members also work at the store and sit in on the collective's meetings.

Working members and alternates earn between \$6 and \$8 an hour, as well as receive a discount on their food.

Individuals generally work six to eight hours a day at the store, four days a week. "It's a decent lifestyle if you're not interested in making a lot of money," says Weedy, who has worked at the store the longest, since 1976.

The store's popularity in the neighborhood is attested to by the volunteers who put in time at the market without pay.

Some volunteers go on to become full-fledged members of the collective as other members leave. Weedy notes that people stay at the store for varying periods of time, with some having been there for over 10 years.

Despite the loyalty the market inspires, the Community Store has found it increasingly difficult to get by in recent years.

The emergence of health food sections in the larger grocery stores has drastic-



The Noe Valley Community Store is once again in peril, but Alejandro Robles and Robin Mann are optimistic about finding a new location for the 22-year-old cooperative. Photo by Tom Wachs

ally cut into the collective's business. At the same time, the organic foods that the Community Store sells are generally more expensive than products found in regular markets—and that has discouraged some shoppers.

Weedy says the store was also hurt by the filming of the movie *Sister Act* on Church Street several years ago. Because parking in the area was just about eliminated during the movie shoot, many customers went elsewhere, such as the Good Life Grocery in Bernal Heights, and did not return once the filming ended.

But the tough times have also served to make the store "leaner and more efficient," according to Weedy.

If the store does go, many people in the neighborhood will consider it a great loss.

"Having a neighborhood market with a small-world feeling, that's a part of what living in Noe Valley means to me," said Denise Daniel, a Noe Street resident.

One Church Street resident, Mary McCann, said she had just discovered the market six months ago and found it unique in its community spirit.

"People say hello to you there. It goes to the heart of why I like to live in Noe Valley. The store adds soul and warmth and meaning to where I live." □

Those who'd like to help out—through donations of either time, labor, or funds—should call the Noe Valley Community Store at 824-8022.

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Welcome to the NVBI

Noe's Fashion Experts Forced To Reveal What They're (We're) Wearing

Last month NVBI investigators Karen Topakian and Beverly Tharp (the ones with the "Women in the Hood" badges) made the rounds of neighborhood clothes stores, asking the question most Noe Valleons have been afraid to ask:

What's hot in fashion this fall in Noe Valley?

Since the *Voice* is the newspaper of record—and will undoubtedly be forced to turn over our tapes to the Simpson trial—we have decided to print the merchants' answers in their entirety.

The results of our survey are listed in alphabetical order. Secondhand stores are marked with an asterisk (*).

Our main findings? Brown yes. Frilly no. Vintage vintage.

All Jazzed Up*
3915 24th St.
826-5900

Lola Greco, owner: Vintage suits for women are very popular: a '50s cut and lots of pin stripes. [What's in now are] jackets cropped to the waist or three-quarter-length, the funkier the better. Jeans always work, and hats—felt hats, straw hats—are a good seller. A lot of people are coming in asking for pins and other accessories to give themselves a more polished look, a well-put-together look.

Allure*
1320 Castro St.
282-0722

Tricia Hollenberg, owner: The one thing that's really moving for us is the vintage jacket—fitted, small, short, and very well detailed with ornate buttons. The fall look, even for younger women in their 20s, is a short and more fitted coat, the same style we had in the '60s. (This also goes for leather.) Men's jackets for men or women in camelhair, wool, and cashmere are popular. As for colors, Noe Valley is very big on neutral colors and charcoal, and there is a very dark red that does well for us.

Classy Sweats
4068 24th St.
824-3417

John Arden, owner: Prison blues sell well in Noe Valley. They are very comfortable, moderately priced jeans, and an eight-ounce denim shirt, made by prisoners in the Oregon state prison system. Welders and construction workers buy this shirt. [But] in the fall we generally do well with our sports stuff. People have been turned off to baseball, but the 49ers are always a best seller. They do better than every other team combined. We've got hats! We've got sweat shirts! Come get 'em!



It's overalls forever at Cotton Basics at 24th and Castro; the perennial favorite is modeled by salesperson Adrien Smith.

Cotton Basics
1301 Castro St.
550-8646

Adrien Smith, salesperson: We're going to be seeing a lot of cardigan sweaters with pockets, big shirts, and long skirts that flair out at the bottom. All our clothes are in cotton (with a few in rayon), and our colors are going to be olive green, a lighter purple than our eggplant, dark rose, burgundy, midnight blue, and a rusty kind of red. Scarves and tights will continue to be part of the fall look. We will be re-dyeing our overalls—which always sell well—into our new colors, but the striped overalls are also really big.

Deja Vu HQ*
4156 24th St.
642-1122

Liz Callahan, owner: Vintage is very, very popular. The younger the girls are, the more they want the vintage look from the '20s, '30s, '40s, even the '70s! Accessories and vintage jewelry are going very well. I'm also doing a fairly decent business in wedding gowns. Hats are good; people are coming in looking specifically for hats. Toward the beginning and middle of September, I will start putting in coats.

Designers' Club
3899 24th St.
648-1057

Prisca Bonati, owner: The fall colors are earthy: rust, very nice greens, some gray, a lot of classic black. I will be showing a few light, icy colors around the holidays, but no bright colors because they don't go well in this neighborhood. (Many of my customers work out of their homes, and only come in to buy something to wear when they have to go downtown to make a speech or presentation.) I've



Owner Prisca Bonati of Designers' Club, on 24th near Sanchez, models one of the store's knit jackets, suitable for wearing indoors or out.



Rabat manager Alison Kilmer (l.) and model Kendra Bailey are wearing some of the most tailored clothing available in Noe Valley.

bought some jackets for everyday wear, some beautiful velvet jackets for the holidays, and dresses in Chinese styles with little collars. I have lots of bias skirts, which are very flattering. Short bouclé [tulted knit] sweaters and crop tops are in. I'm very excited about the leather bags I have from Italy, and I plan to bring in the jewelry of two or three designers featuring ethnic designs and pieces with beautiful stones.

Gladrags
3985 24th St.
647-7144

Lily Hsia, owner: There's going to be lots of texture this year, and we're going to be featuring a lot of velvets and chenille. As usual, we'll keep with the deep tones: eggplant, forest, deep blues, but there will be more of a focus on red—deep, rich red tones. We'll carry wool hats and chenille scarves to go with our chenille sweaters. We also will have lots of lingerie; our whole back wall will be devoted to it.

Guys & Dolls*
3789 24th St.
285-7174

Graciela Ronconi: Even though this is vintage clothing, there *are* trends. Suits are big sellers now, as is lingerie worn as an outer garments and men's pants for women and men, with the '40s cut (baggy straight leg). This is San Francisco, so sweaters and '40s daytime dresses with prints are always popular. In accessories, the '30s feminine style is more popular than the big clunky '50s jewelry that sold well in the '80s. I've started selling more clutch bags, the '40s retro look, and alligator bags. I can never have enough cuff links! As for colors: greens, reds, pink, and black, of course. You can never have too many black jackets.



Manager Barbara Jonesi and shop owner Liz Klein (r.), of Joshua Simon, show off the new linen looks for fall. Photos by Beverly Tharp

Joshua Simon
3915 24th St.
821-1068

Liz Klein, owner, and Barbara Jonesi, manager: One thing we really see that's new is the shape of skirts. The skirts cut on the bias are the big skirts this fall. Linen is getting even stronger, and carries throughout the whole year. Various shades of brown seem to be strong. There seems to be an abundance of wonderful coats and jackets and blazers, and an enormous amount of chenille scarves and sweaters in all different shapes: cardigans, cropped, and a new type of patterned, over-dyed, and "distressed" chenille. We have an incredible array of styles and fabrics in coats, particularly short ones. Jewelry is much smaller and much more romantic looking.

Mary's Exchange*
1302 Castro St.
282-6955

Wendy, owner: Because this is basically a consignment shop, what I find is that clothes that are really new, about three years old or newer, completely in style, and in good condition are what sell in Noe Valley. The casual, unstructured style is what people like. Our clientele is mainly from around here, and they don't like frilly clothes! Right now earth colors and black are popular. In the winter I sell a lot of wool hats from Afghanistan.

Rahat
4001 24th St.
282-7861

Alison Kilmer: Very shaped retrospective looks are featured this season, in everything from wool gabardine to satin to velvets, crushed or regular. Everything has a definite waist—the skinny belt is still strong—but clothes have a soft silhouette. Hem lengths go from mini-mini all the way down to the floor. Colors are muted. Brown is really strong, but there's burgundy, hunter green, and still a lot of black. Our shoes are still retrospective too, from the Rosie the Riveter look all the way down to the '50s pump. The boots are heavy with a stacked heel and a round toe. In jewelry (especially watches), the more delicate and feminine look is in.

Top Drawer*
1781 Church St.
695-0578

Connie Peecher, owner: The back-to-school look with pleated skirts, lots of sweaters, and designer knock-offs will be our fall theme. We always carry contemporary fashions for women of all ages. We will also carry our usual stable of scarves. My customers are much more interested in comfortable and classic shoes than spike-heeled shoes, so that's what we'll have—and lots of them. □

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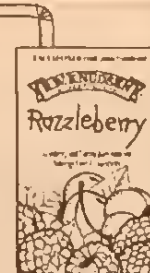


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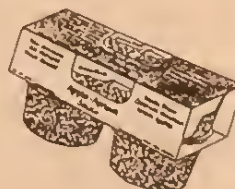


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Noe Valley Dog Tales

Miracle on Church Street

By Margaret Keohane

It was hot that Saturday afternoon as I walked home along the west side of Church Street. As I arrived at the corner of 25th and Church and prepared to cross the street, my eyes met one of the saddest scenes an animal lover can encounter.

Outside the barbershop, on the opposite side of the street, lay the body of a dog in an unmistakable posture of death.

As I approached gingerly, I saw that the dog was a large and beautiful animal, a short-haired yellow Labrador retriever, seemingly well nourished and well groomed. His head lay on the sidewalk, and his paws were stretched out rigidly in front of his handsome body. He wore a collar and a license, although the number on the tag was partially obscured by the thick folds of his neck.

I looked about helplessly and found that the animal and I were being observed by two middle-aged women standing near the corner. They came toward me, and I expressed my fear that the dog had been struck by a car, although he had no visible wounds.

One of the women told me that they believed he had succumbed to a heart attack, for she explained that a short time before my arrival they had seen him running down the hill from Jersey Street at high speed, and that he had collapsed when he'd arrived at the spot where he now lay.

As the three of us bent over the body, we discovered that the dog was breathing faintly. At this heartening development, the other two women tried to rouse him by calling familiar dog names: "Sport! Rover! Goldie!" My own dog-calling repertoire is confined to "Here, pup," but I started calling too: "Here, pup. c'mon, pup. Get up!"

There was no response from the dog, although I thought for a moment that one of his eyelids twitched faintly.

The neighborhood seemed to abound in humane people, for

before we knew it, we were joined by a girl of about 14, who had been watching from a few feet away. She was tall and slender, and her thick braids fell over her shoulders and down to her waist. Her face glowed with eagerness to be of service to a fallen animal.

"If you have twenty cents," she told me, "I'll call the SPCA."

She immediately lowered herself to the pavement, and by placing her cheek on the sidewalk was able to discern the dog's license number, which she repeated over and over as she rose to her feet. She jumped up and down, still chanting the number, while we three struggled with our handbags to produce a pen and a scrap of paper. Then she flew across the intersection to a public telephone on the corner.

Two of us stood about, waiting for her return. The other woman knelt beside the victim and continued to

"Do you know whose dog this is?" I asked.

"Yes," the barber said rather curtly, "he's my dog."

The woman who had diagnosed the animal as "a very sick dog" came forward. "We just sent for the SPCA," she said.

"You what?" said the barber, putting down his shears. At that moment his phone rang. It was the SPCA calling to tell him that his dog had been fatally stricken and lay on the sidewalk at 25th and Church streets.

Meanwhile, the young girl had returned and, spotting us through the windows of the barbershop, joined us inside. Her smooth face, moist with the heat of the day and the exertion generated by her mission, was now shining with delight as she observed the dog sitting serenely behind the barber's chair.



Illustration by Karol Borske

observe him. She looked up at us with a grave expression. "This is a very sick dog," she said.

Suddenly the dog's head reared up from the pavement, and with one great leap he was on his feet, streaking into the barbershop before our astonished gaze.

We stared at one another dumbly and then followed the dog into the shop, where we encountered two barbers. Each of them was engaged in cutting the hair of a male patron.

The young barber in front looked at us inquiringly, as though appraising our need for a haircut. Opposite us, in a cool corner of the room, the dog sat on his haunches.

Her braids flew about as she executed a little dance of joy before merrily proceeding out the door and down the street.

At this point, the three of us remaining tried to explain to the barber the reason for our concern. We took turns describing what we had perceived as the critical condition of the dog, but our accounts faltered as the animal's large dark eyes gazed at us with detached curiosity from the other side of the room.

Then we thanked the barber and he thanked us, although it seemed that he was not sure for what.

His dog, he said, was accustomed to exercising vigorously in hot weather,

She looked up at us with a very grave expression. "This is a very sick dog," she said.

and then lying down on the pavement until the heat forced him to seek the cool shelter of the shop. Apparently, we were the first passersby who had attempted to resuscitate him.

The barber then resumed trimming the nape of his elderly patron, who had kept his eyes steadfastly fixed on the floor. As we prepared to depart, the customer raised his head and scanned each of us in turn, then charitably lowered his eyes to the ground.

One warm Sunday afternoon a few weeks later, I again passed the barbershop. The young barber was inside, sweeping the floor. The door was open, and through it ambled the dog. After selecting the hottest area of the sidewalk, he suddenly collapsed in the death pose.

Dog lover that I am, I walked by without a second glance. □

Margaret Keohane, a 30-year resident of Liberty Street, says her encounter with the golden retriever occurred several years ago, when the J. & S. Barbering Co. on Church Street was called Roger's Barber Shop. She recently went back to discover the dog's name and learned from the shop's current owner, Stephanie Holstein, that Chelsea—yes, it was a female—died in 1993 at the grand old age of 13 (and not on the pavement). The shop now has two stand-ins, or lie-ins, as it were: a retired Greyhound racer named Cruzin' and a 6-month-old pug, Bernard

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The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of non-fiction essays, opinion pieces, and other first-person reflections, particularly those relating to Noe Valley people and pastimes (pets okay, too). Please mail manuscripts, which should be typed, double-spaced, and fewer than 1,200 words, to The Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. We'd appreciate a phone number, too. □



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Beth Van Hoesen and Mark Adams share their Noe Valley home with their Jack Russell terrier Oka and the many paintings and tapestries they've created over the years. Photo by Charles Kennard

Adams and Van Hoesen—a Marriage of Arts and Minds

By Denise Minor

The tall wooden fence on 22nd Street near Castro doesn't look like much. But if you step back and look up, you will see on the wall of a building behind it the words "Chemical Engine No. 44," the first indication that something very interesting lies beyond.

The building is an old firehouse, which has been converted into the home and studio of renowned artists Mark Adams and Beth Van Hoesen, a Noe Valley couple whose achievements, experiences, and romantic lifestyle are the stuff of novels.

In a fitting tribute to their four decades of following the creative spirit, Chronicle Books is publishing two companion books this fall: *Works on Paper*, a collection of Van Hoesen's drawings and watercolors, and *A Way with Color*, a similar compendium of Mark Adams' work.

The publications will be released nationally in February, but a few editions will be available for purchase the second week of November at a book-signing at the John Berggruen Gallery at 228 Grant St. in San Francisco.

Adams is perhaps best known in the Bay Area for the stained-glass windows he designed for churches and synagogues, such as Temple Emanu-El on Lake Street and St. Thomas More Catholic Church off Brotherhood Way, and for the enormous tapestries that hang in the city's airport and in Moscone Convention Center downtown. In recent years, he has produced watercolors of common everyday objects—such as a necktie, shoes, or a bowl of lime Jello—lauded by the critics as "deceptively simple paintings full of

lush colors and very definite contours."

Van Hoesen is famous for her realistic etchings of roosters, owls, sheep, and other animals, many of which are included in the 1987 Chronicle Books publication *Creatures*, a big seller in both the United States and France. Her 1979 portrait of a flop-eared rabbit, *Sally*, was among several drawings mass-produced on cards and posters and sold at Macy's and other stores around the country.

"Go ahead, look around if you like," says Adams, on a warm August afternoon when he notices this *Voice* reporter having difficulty keeping her eyes from darting around the couple's enormous, sunny studio/living room on the second floor of the converted firehouse.

"We bought the place for \$7,500 in 1959 at a city auction," he says. "It still has the original ceiling and linoleum floor." To give that figure a better perspective, Adams adds that the typical price for a Victorian in those days was around \$14,000.

Van Hoesen and Adams' main renovations were adding a kitchen and a two-story staircase ascending from the first floor, which is a large studio and guest room. The studio, which used to house the fire engines—and before that, the horses—still sports an ancient fire alarm and brass pole. "The original kitchen for the firemen was in a little building out back," said Adams. "So at first we cooked on a hot plate."

Propped on the shelves of one wall are brilliantly colored portraits of flowers and vases, just arrived from the printer and awaiting Van Hoesen's signature. Next to

them are her works in progress—watercolor sketches of teddy bears.

On two other walls hang examples of Adams' art—large colorful tapestries, one splashed with blue-and-white flowers and the other an abstract design of orange, yellow, and red.

In the center of the room, a sitting area has been formed with a sofa and chairs facing one another around a square Oriental rug. Surrounding this improvised living space are the work areas—an antique desk with paperwork, drawing tables beneath the huge glass windows, and on the far right wall a bookcase that reaches from floor to 12-foot ceiling, complete with a sliding wooden ladder to reach the upper tomes.

Near the back of the house is a world map with red and blue pins marking all the places the two have traveled—Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East. Everything is beautifully displayed in a mixture of antique and modern furniture that could only be put together by artists.

Van Hoesen, 69, enters the room in the motorized chair she must use because of her osteoarthritis, and joins her husband at the table.

Both are warm and gracious. She wears a muslin skirt, black strap sandals, and a peasant-style blouse. Her soft pageboy reaches her shoulders and frames a broad, sunny face with an easy smile. He, with short white hair, wire-framed glasses, khaki pants, a denim shirt, and Birkenstocks, could be a model for the Gap.

"I always liked art, as far back as I can remember," begins Adams, who is 69 as well. "In kindergarten I remember painting clam shells orange for my mom to use as pin trays."

But he was also attracted to music and theater, and performed in high school plays in his hometown of Fort Plain, N.Y., and later in Syracuse, where he attended college. Eventually he decided in favor of

pursuing art because it was something he could do on his own.

"It's not like a symphony orchestra, where you need everyone else to perform, or a play, where you depend on the other actors and director and stagehands."

Little did he realize that in his later career as an artist specializing in stained glass and tapestries, he would rely on dozens of other people to weave his creations or cut and piece together fragments of colored glass.

While in Syracuse, Adams heard about Hans Hoffman, the New York City abstract painter with whom everyone wanted to study during the 1940s. So he moved to the Big Apple and studied for two years with Hoffman, then later returned to study with him again for six months.

After that Adams moved to Oakland, where he worked for two months as an elevator operator in a medical building. Then he moved to Carmel because he got a job digging ditches at the old Spanish mission there.

"Harry Downy, my boss, decided I wasn't too good of a ditch digger," says Adams. "He had built a little chapel near the Mission for the townspeople to attend mass, and he commissioned me to make stations of the cross for it."

"They had to look like they were done by Indians under the influence of the Spanish clergy," he says.

Then, at about the age of 21, Adams got a job in the display department of Gump's. He also did some freelance work for General Paint Company, making silk-screens portraying people refurbishing their homes.

At about this time he started designing sets and performing in plays at the former Bay Theater on Fillmore Street. "Eric Nord, this great big blond guy who performed with us, said he wanted to start a

Continued on Page 20

The Artist Couple of Engine No. 44

Continued from Page 19

bar or cafe where people could meet after practice," recalls Adams.

So Nord rented the basement of what was then the Sentinel Building (now known as the Francis Ford Coppola Building on Kearny Street), and asked Adams to design murals for the walls.

"It was a marvelous place. I did abstract murals for the walls," he says. "Then Nord asked, 'Got any ideas for a name?' I thought about it and said, 'Yeah, the Hungry i.' The *i* was for one's self, first-person singular. And *hungry* was for food and ideas."

(The club changed hands and moved twice before it became the famous show hall it is today.)

This meeting place for artists and performers, in a roundabout way, ended up bringing Adams and Van Hoesen together.

Van Hoesen had a friend who regularly hung out at the Hungry i because he was enthralled with the talent of a black jazz pianist who performed there. This friend met Adams and liked the club's decor, so he asked Adams to help him redesign his apartment.

"He called me and said, 'I've got this problem with my apartment,'" Adams remembers. "He was going with this woman who talked him into buying all this gold brocade furniture. And he had turquoise walls."

"I said that the only thing that could go in there was black and white."

Adams directed his client to buy white curtains, paint the window trim black, hang a large scroll of Chinese calligraphy on one wall, and get some black-and-white prints to hang above the couch.

"He said that he knew this girl who did prints of scenes of France, so he took me to meet her," recalls Adams, smiling about the fateful day he met his wife. "I was impressed by her prints. And I was impressed by her."

Van Hoesen had come to San Francisco after completing an art degree at Stanford University, and then living in Paris and traveling through Europe for two years. She was talented, charming, sophisticated, and came from a well-off family. But life had not been easy for her.

Van Hoesen's grandfather was a prosperous lawyer in upstate New York, but decided to try his luck in the West. He moved to Idaho and bought the Mesa Orchards near Wheezer, then the largest privately owned orchard in the world.



Beth Van Hoesen's "Sally," a 1979 etching, drypoint, and aquatint à la poupée, has been a popular print throughout the United States and Europe. Photo by M. Lee Fatherree

The grandfather brought his sons, including Van Hoesen's father, out to his new state and enrolled them in the University of Idaho in Moscow. "That's where dad met my mother," says Van Hoesen. "I was born in Boise, Idaho."

The sons later worked in the Mesa Orchards business, but during the Great Depression it went bust. "It was awful," she says. "I remember all these apples rotting, because there was nowhere to sell them."

Van Hoesen's father went to work for the Carnation Company and began a series of job moves that would uproot his family about once a year. Her mother suffered from serious nervous breakdowns, so Van Hoesen spent most of her girlhood at boarding schools.

"I was always the new girl in school," she relates. "And there was no real consistency to my education. I had Julius Caesar three times, but I had no American history."

One thing that remained consistent was her love of art. "I was determined to be an artist from an early age. I was drawing at the age of six. Mom saved many of them. They were all full of people."

In 1941, at the age of 16, Van Hoesen's appendix ruptured. She was taken to the hospital, where she contracted measles, then came down with pneumonia. She ended up having four operations.

"It was a miracle I survived," says Van Hoesen. "All my hair fell out. And here I was at 5'10" weighing only 75 pounds."

A friend's family took her in for the year she needed to recover. She got home-schooling and obviously caught up quite well, for she was accepted at Stanford in the fall of 1944. "For once, I went to the same school for four years."

For one semester, Van Hoesen traveled to Mexico to study at the Escuela Esmeralda in Mexico City. "Some of Mexico's best easel painters were teaching there," she says.

One of her most vivid memories of the school was staring at the still lifes hanging on the academy walls. "The Mexicans used bright colors and grand strokes. The Americans' work was gray and black, with lots of realism."

After college, Van Hoesen moved to Paris with a friend. At first, she dedicated lots of time to painting. "Then I realized, hey, I could do this at home. So I haunted the museums."

Van Hoesen got work painting portraits and rent was only 50 cents a day, so making a living was not difficult. "But I realized I didn't want to be an expatriate. Most of the expatriates seemed to be floating. They didn't have much purpose."

So she moved to San Francisco, rented a flat on Telegraph Hill, and started attending the California School of Fine Arts, now the San Francisco Art Institute.

"By this time I was tired of painting nudes. I wanted clothed models. And I would sit right down in front, so I could see every wrinkle," says Van Hoesen.

Her instructors pushed her to loosen up. "One of them would say, 'Beth, you've got to swear a little more in your painting. Give it a little more guts.'"

Much of what they said she considered "jabberwocky," but she must have listened. "By the end of the course I was cutting off heads and things like that."

At that time Van Hoesen got it in her mind she wanted to study with Hans Hoffman in New York, but she had just met Adams, and he convinced her not to go.

"He said, 'Why go study with him? I'll teach you everything he taught me.'"

So Van Hoesen started taking lessons from Adams, but at first she was skeptical. "He'd paint something, then rip it in half and put it together askew. I didn't think it looked any better," she says.

The two started going to museums together. They'd split up, then meet up again and walk through together pointing out what had interested them. "It was then that I began to see what he meant by the relationship of space," says Van Hoesen.

Adams now says that what he was trying to suggest was that an artist should explore the relationship between objects and their background, as well as consider the contrast of colors. "At that time Beth's favorite artist was Rembrandt, who did wonderful portraits. But to me, Rembrandt had no composition and used terrible colors. Everything was brown!"

While Van Hoesen continued to dabble, Adams became interested in medieval tapestry. He designed a large piece that he named the "Queen of Hearts," which was eventually shown at the de Young Museum in 1952. At the time, he was living on Potrero Hill in a home owned by a Russian man and his Puerto Rican wife. She and several women of the neighborhood helped him weave the tapestry, in threads of cotton and wool.

"It was like a sewing bee we'd have regularly," recalls Adams.

On Sept. 12 of the following year, the two artists married at her aunt and uncle's home in Burlingame. Afterwards, they decided to plan an adventure. "Mark hadn't done much traveling, none outside of the country," says Van Hoesen. "I thought we should go somewhere."

Since Adams was so interested in tapestry, Van Hoesen encouraged him to write to the master, Jean Lurçat of Aubusson, France, to see if he could study with him. The French government had commissioned Lurçat to revitalize the tapestry industry, which had reached its zenith in the 14th century with the "Apocalypse Tapestries," a series of weavings that used only 22 colors of thread.

"During the Renaissance, artists became so enamored of imitating paintings that they would use 10,000 colors," Adams explained. "The government wanted to find some way to bring the industry back to its original art form."

So Adams wrote Lurçat a long letter with some slides of his work. A few weeks later he got a postcard with a photo of the 16th-century chateau connected to the 11th-century Moorish towers where the master lived and worked. Adams had been accepted.

Van Hoesen, being the more experienced traveler, organized the trip. She fig-

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Marriage of Arts

Continued from Previous Page

ured that if they took a freighter to Morocco, they would save enough money on transportation to live between six and eight months in France.

"We got to Morocco, and it was just after the time of the revolution. So there were very few tourists, and all the rates were reasonable," says Adams. "It was great."

They then traveled on to St. Cere, and learned that Lurçat's wife had died, prompting him to go to Italy for a month. The young Americans had neglected to write and tell him they were coming. So they stayed in a hotel and then an apartment for a while, but got depressed by the cold weather and headed for Italy. When they returned, the master was back, and they stayed with him for three months.

"I'd get up at 6 a.m. and work on my own project, then at 9 a.m. I'd go down to the castle to work with the other students on Lurçat's cartoon [a preliminary study for a tapestry]," says Adams.

After a few weeks Adams asked the master to look at the design he had been working on. After studying the cartoon for a moment, Lurçat said, "What's it for?" Then he added, "Too dry," and left.

Not discouraged, Adams started over again, continuing to ask every few weeks for Lurçat's succinct observations. "Finally he came down and said, 'That's a tapestry.' So I left," he laughs.

When they returned home, Adams continued his concentration on tapestries, and Van Hoesen started taking print classes at the Art Institute. She concentrated on dry-point, a method of drawing directly onto a metal plate.

"It's a rich and delicate medium, but you can only get one or two prints off the plate because it gets worn down," she says.

To stretch the use of her copper plates, Van Hoesen would flip them over and etch into the wrong side, which was covered with a protective coating, and make up prints from that. "I liked the way they looked, so I sent a few around to the Library of Congress."

Van Hoesen had no idea what doors those prints would open for her.

Gunther Toche, who was in charge of the world-renowned Achenbach Foundation, saw the folio at the Library of Congress and wanted some for his collection. Van Hoesen then had a small show at Gump's, where someone from *Esquire* magazine saw them.

"They called me up from *Esquire* and wanted to do an interview," Van Hoesen laughs, remembering what she thought would be a disaster. "I didn't have many more prints left. So I went in with six or seven prints on the wrong kind of paper, from the wrong side of the plate, and they ended up calling me a one-woman renaissance."

Her prints became part of an Achenbach traveling exhibit, and in 1959 were shown at the de Young Museum.

At about this time Van Hoesen also became enamored of drawing animals, mak-



Mark Adams' paintings often give a close-up view of common everyday objects, such as this "Black Water Jar" (1982 aquatint).

ing her sketches directly from life because she didn't think a photograph could capture an animal's personality. "I had a friend with two poodle puppies. Physically they were identical, but they had two very distinct personalities.

"How could I capture that? It had to be from life," declares Van Hoesen. Her portraits, which bring out the mysterious and sometimes defiant nature of her nonhuman subjects, are touching without being sentimental.

The two artists continued to live in their Noe Valley firehouse, but occasionally left for months at a time so that Adams could teach. He taught for six months at the Academy of Rome and for a semester at the University of California at Davis.

"He was a very good teacher," says Van Hoesen. "At Davis, the undergrads didn't want to do things his way. So he proposed a compromise: one day they would paint his way and the next their way," she adds. "Pretty soon everyone was doing things his way!"

While her husband was giving art classes, "I was out in the fields drawing cows and sheep."

Both taught for a summer at the Arrowmount School near Gatlinburg, Tenn. The school had started as a craft school for poor children, but eventually became a "bona fide" art school, says Van Hoesen.

Back at home, Director Ian White of the California Palace of the Legion of Honor decided to organize a retrospective in 1970 of Adams' work. It filled seven galleries, and 2,500 people showed up for opening night.

"It was the first beautiful evening of spring," says Adams. "So everyone decided to come out and enjoy the weather."

Adams gradually became interested in stained-glass art, which seemed to him a natural extension of his work in tapestry and his interest in liturgical art. During the 1970s, he designed a number of pieces for churches, including St. Aidan's in Dia-

mond Heights and St. John the Baptist in Santa Rosa.

These projects required a lot of work and considerable coordination. Adams made several trips to New York to buy hand-blown French and German antique glass for each piece.

The intensity of these projects made him yearn to return to art that was "small, intimate, and personal," he says. So about 20 years ago, he began working with watercolors.

Adams had been influenced by Van Hoesen's uncle, a retired physician whom they had gone to visit in France. "As a hobby, he was doing these watercolors of landscapes. He was using the watercolor like a paint, like a pigment, very carefully putting the colors down—not at all like the broad strokes we'd learned to splash on in college."

Adams began using the watercolors in a similar fashion for still lifes. In 1978, John Berggruen gave him a show, priced the work moderately, and they sold out.

Now Adams continues to concentrate on watercolors and paintings, several of which—of a brass bowl, ballet slippers, decorative boxes—are displayed in the studio of the couple's living room. The paintings are notable for their intense focus on a particular object, which is usually suspended in a solid but graduated-color landscape.

In the 1970s Van Hoesen became interested in working with colors as well, but she used them in printmaking. Most color prints require numerous plates—one for every color. But she invented an "à la poupée" method, which requires

only two plates, even for her brilliant palette of colorful flowers.

In 1980, the Oakland Museum held a large show of her colored prints. Those prints, as well as her portraits of animals and other work, are collected in three publications, *A Collection of Wonderful Things* (Scrimshaw Press, 1972), *Creatures* (Yollaholly Press and Chronicle Books, 1987), and now *Beth Van Hoesen Works on Paper* (the John Berggruen Gallery in conjunction with Chronicle Books).

The 1995 *Mark Adams. A Way with Color* is also co-published by Chronicle Books and the John Berggruen Gallery, as was Adams' first book, *Mark Adams*, published in 1985.

Both artists continue to work every day. They also try to stay in touch with artist friends and neighbors like Ruth Asawa and Al Lanier, who helped them redesign the firehouse.

As for their connection to Noe Valley, "We've enjoyed watching the neighborhood change," says Adams. "We were concerned that either one of these neighborhoods—the Castro or Noe Valley—was going to go the way of the Haight-Ashbury, with drugs and such.

"But instead, wonderful things have happened on both sides. Gays came to live in the Castro, invested in it, and turned it into a thriving area. And Noe Valley developed this wonderful community spirit. People who care about their neighborhood started moving in."

Until a few years ago Adams and Van Hoesen held weekly drawing sessions, even hired a model, for a group of friends including Wayne Thiebaud, Gordon Cook, and Theophilus Brown.

The sessions ended when Van Hoesen needed shoulder surgery. Because of the arthritis in her hips, she had been putting considerable stress on her shoulders by using the handrail to pull herself up the two flights of stairs to the living area above their studios.

Now she has installed a mechanical device that transports her motorized chair up and down the steps.

In addition, she suffers from occasional carpal tunnel syndrome in her hands and wrists, making it difficult to apply pressure to etchings and prints. So now her mediums of preference are watercolors and colored pencil.

Despite the considerable pain she faces daily, Van Hoesen continues to paint regularly.

In fact, it is quite likely that on any given afternoon, someone strolling down 22nd Street might look up into the large windows below "Chemical Engine No. 44" and see Beth Van Hoesen and Mark Adams facing each other over their work tables, pouring their concentration into the creation of art, just as they have been doing for the past 40 years. □

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SHORT TAKES

'20s Films with '90s Music

Last October, the masterminds behind Noe Valley Movies—the cinema series at the Noe Valley Ministry—cooked up a program that combined classic silent films with music performed by members of the Club Foot Orchestra and the Tom Waits Group. The event was such a success that they decided to do it again this year, only this time they're featuring a different selection of films.

On Friday and Saturday, Sept. 15 and 16, Noe Valley Movies presents "Dadaists, Cartoonists, and Clarinetists," an evening of surreal films and cartoons from the '20s, embellished by live, improvised music from the '90s.

Clarinetist Beth Custer, who plays with Club Foot Orchestra and the world beat band Trance Mission, joins reedman Ralph Carney, who has performed with Tom Waits, the B-52s, and the Rova Saxophone Quartet, in a horn accompaniment of experimental films by Dziga Vertov, Sergei Eisenstein, Man Ray, Salvador Dali, Ladislav Starewicz, and Otto "Felix the Cat" Messmer. The pair will also play during film intermissions.

Showtime is 8:30 p.m. both nights, in the upstairs sanctuary of the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Admission is \$8. For more information, call Paul Etchevery, creative director of Noe Valley Movies, at 386-1291.

Grab an Anti-Graffiti Grant

Graffiti got you down? If so, now's the time to apply for help from the city's Neighborhood Beautification and Graffiti Cleanup Fund, which supports a wide range of litter removal programs throughout San Francisco. The deadline for the agency's next grant cycle is Sept. 25, and any nonprofit organization can apply.

The Neighborhood Beautification Fund was instituted after the June 1990 passage of Proposition D, which allowed businesses to designate up to 1 percent of their business or payroll tax for city beautification and cleanup.

Grants range from \$1,000 to \$40,000, and preference is given to projects that are generated by neighborhood groups, particularly those serving economically disadvantaged areas. The Fund also looks kindly upon projects that involve young people and rely on volunteer labor.

Last July, 21 organizations—including the Bayview Hunter's Point Foundation Youth Services, San Francisco Conservation Corps, Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, Intersection for the Arts, and the Bernal Glen Association—received a total of over \$338,000 in grant monies.

If you would like an application, call NBF at 554-7979.

AIDS Memorial Grove

Dig out your gardening gloves (but if you don't have any, don't worry) and sign up to join a volunteer workday of weeding, planting, and assisting with construction at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park on Saturday, Sept. 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The 15-acre grove is located in the De Laveaga Dell, where—amidst pine, redwoods, cypress, dogwood, fern, and oak—caregivers, friends, and families of those who have been touched by AIDS can go to remember, grieve, and seek hope and renewal.

Volunteers have been working since 1991 to clear and replant the sanctuary site, which had long been neglected. Construction of gathering, rest, and contemplation areas began early this year and is scheduled for completion in 1997. In the meantime, visitors are already using the grove to hold private services.

Workdays are held once a month. September's workday is being sponsored by What's for Dessert, the cafe at Church and 27th streets, in memory of former Dolores Street resident Tom Battinger, who formerly created many of the flower arrangements at the cafe.

"People learned more about bird-of-paradise flowers from Tom than you could ever imagine," said Betty deLosada, a What's for Dessert regular and AIDS Grove member. "When the petals began to dry up, he knew how to open the bud and pull out fresh petals. He could make those flowers last for weeks. Tom had a keen sense of horticulture and nature."

Participants who would like to carpool to the grove should sign up at What's for Dessert prior to the workday; carpoolers will then meet at the cafe at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. All other volunteers (of any age) are invited to meet at the grove at 9 a.m., where gloves and tools will be provided.

The AIDS Memorial Grove is located in the eastern end of the park, north of the bowling greens and west of the tennis courts. If you'd like more details, call What's for Dessert at 550-7465. To find out how to sponsor a workday or underwrite a portion of the grove, call 750-8340.

Your Pre-Election Homework

Election vibrations are in the air, and two more political events are in store for Noe Valley residents this month.

On Wednesday, Sept. 20, the Noe Valley Democratic Club will host a general membership and endorsement meeting for candidates and issues on the Nov. 7 ballot. Candidates for mayor, sheriff, and district attorney are expected to attend the meeting, which will be held at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Club President Rick Hauptman says the public is invited, and he'll be happy to entertain your questions at 647-0549.

Next on the political agenda will be a forum (not a debate) featuring the candidates for mayor, sponsored by several

neighborhood groups, including the Upper Noe Neighbors residents' group.

The event will take place Thursday, Sept. 28, 7 to 9:30 p.m., at Upper Noe Recreation Center, on Sanchez Street between Day and 30th. At press time, Mayor Frank Jordan and challengers Roberta Achtenberg, Angela Alioto, and Willie Brown had agreed to participate. Organizers said the audience would have an opportunity to ask questions following short presentations from the candidates.

For a forum update, contact Janice Gendreau of Upper Noe Neighbors at 641-5989.

Voyagers Create Peace Mural

Thanks to the 35 youth who participated in Jamestown Community Center's six-week Summer Voyage environmental action program, Edison Elementary School, at Dolores and 22nd streets, is getting a new "peace" mural for its playground this month.

The 8-by-16-foot mural, designed and painted by kids ages 10 to 13, is a protest against the intrusion of gang violence in the West Mission and Noe Valley neighborhoods. It features a collage of symbols representing the kids' ideas on how to promote peace. One prominent section of the mural shows gang symbols that have been woven together to represent unity instead of division.

The young Summer Voyagers, working with the Green City Project's education and action program, came up with a definition of the environment as "everything that affects the quality of life in our community." Said Jamestown's director, Katie Brackenridge, "The kids almost immediately identified gangs and violence as critical factors that adversely affected the neighborhood.... Their understanding of the problem, however, is not simplistic. As one of our participants, Imelda Penate, said, 'We can't just blame gang members for all of this violence. A lot of times they join the gangs because they have messed-up family lives. They need somewhere else to go.'"

Jamestown Community Center, now located within Edison School at 3531 22nd St., is one of those places for kids to go. For information about activities, or to volunteer as a tutor or football or basketball coach, call 647-4709.

Mission Accomplished

The congregation of the Noe Valley Ministry, along with the many other people and organizations who use the Ministry building at 1021 Sanchez St., would like to let the neighborhood know that they have successfully completed their fundraising campaign.

"Raise the Roof" campaign coordinator Dawn Summers announced in August

that the fundraising campaign had exceeded its goal of \$75,000. As of June 6, the tally was \$79,980, plus \$25,000 more slated to be received as a matching grant from the Columbia Foundation.

On Aug. 18, the Ministry held a celebration party, and bids on the roof work are now being evaluated. To ensure the safety of the children who attend the Noe Valley Nursery School (which occupies part of the building), the roof repair work, along with repainting, will not commence until the nursery school's 1996 summer vacation. Work on the vestibule, however, is scheduled to begin this fall.

Although the roof is the biggest priority, there are still many smaller repair and remodeling projects that need to be done at the church. Anyone who would like to volunteer for carpentry, sanding, or painting can contact Karen Heather, the Ministry's building coordinator, at 282-2317.

Backaches Be Gone

How does someone suffering from back pain choose the right treatment, or decide if treatment is even necessary? Better yet, how can a person avoid back problems in the first place?

In an effort to answer these questions, 28th Street resident Stephanie Levin-Gervasi has just produced *The Back Pain Sourcebook*, published by Lowell House of Los Angeles.

Author Levin-Gervasi—who has spent much of her life as a dancer, yoga practitioner, tennis player, and back pain sufferer—hopes her book, now available at Cover to Cover on 24th Street, will tell you everything you need to know about both chronic and acute back pain.

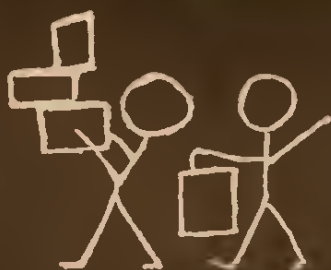
The book explains spinal physiology, as well as the common conditions that cause back pain, such as improper lifting or degenerative disorders associated with the aging process. It also includes an overview of traditional medical treatments, from drugs and myelograms to osteopaths and orthopedists, as well as descriptions of alternative therapies, such as chiropractic treatments, acupuncture, yoga, Roling, Pilates, and the Alexander technique. There's even a guide to organizations and clinics that can help those suffering from back pain.

Levin-Gervasi says the *Sourcebook* stresses prevention strategies too, including back-strengthening exercises and posture and relaxation techniques. "The spine affects and is affected by every movement we make," she points out.

If you'd like to leaf through the book and meet Levin-Gervasi personally, you're invited to attend a book-signing party at What's for Dessert, 1550 Church St., on Sunday, Oct. 8, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Till then, stand up straight. □

This month's Short Takes were written by Jane Underwood.

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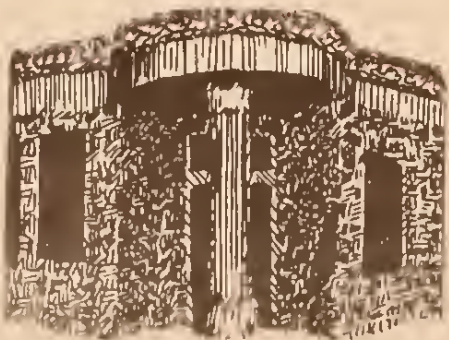
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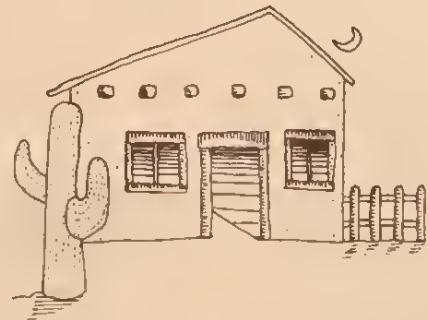
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AUNT HERMIONE'S KITCHEN

A Piquant Barbecue

By Ruhama Veltfort

I wonder if UPS can ship zucchini to Bosnia." I stared at the green and yellow mountain of zucchini spilling off our kitchen table.

As usual, Aunt Hermione had been right. I just couldn't resist planting four kinds of zucchini plants, each yielding dozens of spears. Now I was reaping the harvest of my folly.

"I don't like to say 'I told you so,'" Aunt Hermione began.

"Oh, yes you do," I said crossly. "There's nothing you like better."

I felt immediate remorse. "Forgive me, Auntie," I apologized.

"It's all right, dear," she said. "Anyway, we'll know better next year. I always say there's nothing better than flowers in the garden, and you can never have too many of *them*."

I nodded ruefully. "As for these, even the Food Bank won't take them. I called already. But with so many hungry people in the world, we can't throw them out. And everyone we know has already taken a pound or two home—people are afraid to visit us!"

The worst of it was, I knew no one would be fooled by zucchini bread, zucchini cookies, zucchini pudding... zucchini pudding? It sounded awful.

Aunt Hermione was gazing thoughtfully at the mountain.

"I do know a nice way to fix these," she mused. "I don't suppose you remember Nobby and Cora Dumpis?"

"Who? Aunt Hermione, I'm sure I'd never forget a name like that! Who on earth is Nobby Dumpis?"

She was giving me one of her looks. "He was at Stanford with me," she said stiffly. "The Dumpises are a very old Atherton family, and Nobby was actually named Noble, after his mother's great-uncle Noble Stiles, who came out here in the 1840s with Fremont's scouting expedition before the Mexican War."

"Anyway, Nobby was wonderful fun at Stanford, and after graduation he married Cora Ralston, who was related to the Ralstons, and they bought a lovely piece of property in the Santa Cruz Mountains, near Boulder Creek."

"Well, every year in the fall they used to have a big bash down there, like an old-fashioned country house party. They had a small apple orchard and an old cider press, and they'd invite all their friends down there to make cider, and everyone got a gallon to take home."

It sounded a lot better than zucchini bread, I told her.

My mind entertained the idea of zucchini cider, but only very briefly. Still, I'd heard you could make wine out of anything. What if we juiced them somehow, and then fermented the juice?

"Dear, I do wish you wouldn't drift off so," Aunt Hermione pulled me back. "You told me you loved to hear these old stories, but I don't have to..."

"Oh, no, please, Aunt Hermione. Please go on."

"Well then, the fact is that I wasn't usually invited to the Dumpises' house parties. You see, even though everyone always knew that Nobby would marry Cora some day, I did have a date or two with him when we were in college together. It really was nothing serious, but Cora never forgave me. Or, I should say, it took her a long time. It must have been some time in the early 1960s, thirty years or so after we graduated."

I got one of their precious invitations to come down for the cider pressing."

"How exciting," I murmured.

"I certainly *was* excited, and I put a great deal of attention into my wardrobe, wanting to look my best, and knowing it could be warm as blazes down there at that time of year, but the nights could be awfully chilly."

"Anyway, it was a perfectly lovely scene. The land was just beautiful. They even had a little redwood grove on the property. The house was a big old rambling Spanish-style one, with azaleas planted all around the front. I thought it was like the old ranchos must have been back when Nobby's mother's great-uncle first came out."

Aunt Hermione gave a deep sigh. "Of course, once they started with the cider-pressing, it was absolutely horrid. Every wasp and bee and yellow jacket on the entire West Coast must have flown in to buzz around those mashed-up apples, which had been piled up for compost after the juice had been pressed out of them."

"I stayed out there for as long as I could, but after two of the children were stung, I went inside."

"I'm allergic to bees, you know, and I was terrified of being stung to death. It was so embarrassing too—I sometimes wonder if Cora Dumpis planned it that way, if she somehow knew how frightened I was of bees."

"Why, Auntie, what an awful experience! After you had looked forward to it so much, too!"

"Oh, it all worked out for the best."

She winked at me. "I went indoors and into the kitchen, where a few of the young people were making the buffet for everyone to eat later. They had a barbecue pit outside (the smoke was making the bees even wilder, if you ask me), but they were cooking up a deli-

cious pot of chili too, and the salads! That's what made me think of it, you know."

I looked at her blankly. "Think of what?"

"Well, there's a point to this story," she said. "They were making one of the most delicious salads I've ever had in my life—and it's especially good with barbecue. It's almost all zucchini! And believe me, people were just as sick of zucchini in September thirty years ago as they are now. But everyone ate that salad. There wasn't a bit left."


I was still skeptical. Zucchini is zucchini. But Aunt Hermione went ahead and made a small batch for us. It was good—so good, in fact, that I asked her to make it to bring to Jo-Anne's barbecue party in Glen Park. It was a hit there too. And no bees in sight. □

Zucchini Salad

Ingredients

4 medium-sized zucchini squash
(try mixing yellow, light green,
and dark green), sliced 1/4" thick
1 small red onion, chopped
4 garlic cloves, chopped finely
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon fresh oregano, chopped
(or 1/2 teaspoon dried)
Juice of 2 lemons
Salt and pepper to taste
1/4 cup chopped Italian parsley

Sauté the zucchini, onion, and garlic in the olive oil until soft—about 15 minutes. Add oregano, salt, and pepper the last 5 minutes. Place in a bowl and add lemon juice. Let it sit at room temperature for half an hour to blend the flavors. (It may be chilled in the refrigerator to serve later, but tastes best served at room temperature.) Sprinkle on parsley just before serving. Serves 4–6.



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SEPTEMBER

AUG. 29: Keane's 3300 Club's POETRY nights feature Neeli Cherkovski and Jack and Adele Foley 7 pm 3300 Mission St. 333-3494.

SEPT. 1-30: Noe Valley photographer Tim Baskerville exhibits prints of HISTORIC STRETCARS to commemorate the reopening of the "F-Market" street-car line. Tues.-Sun., 11 am-6 pm Prado Art and Frame, 3897 24th St. 550-7224

SEPT. 2-4: Top chefs share their COOKING SECRETS to benefit the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival at "Absolut à la Carte à la Park." 11 am-6 pm Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park 383-9378.

SEPT. 3: St. Paul's Church hosts an afternoon of 8INGO on the first Sunday of every month. Doors open noon; games begin 1:30 pm. School Hall, Church & 29th 648-7538

SEPT. 3: The INA CHALIS OPERA Ensemble performs excerpts from the Glinka opera *Russian and Ludmilla* 7 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015

SEPT. 3: Old Wives' Tales offers an OPEN MICHELLE NIGHT for writers, singers, and performers. 7:30 pm. Call 821-4675 to sign up.

SEPT. 4: The San Francisco MIME TROUPE performs *Coast City Confidential* in Dolores Park 1:30 pm Dolores & 19th 285-1717

SEPT. 4-OCT. 9: The Golden Gate BOYS CHOIR and Bellringers is auditioning boys 7 and up with unchanged voices. Mondays, 4:30-6:30 pm. St. Mary's Cathedral choir room, 1111 Gough St. Call 431-1137 for an appointment.

SEPT. 5: The Women's AIDS Network's monthly COMMUNITY MEETING discusses client-centered care systems 9-11 am. Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, 1748 Market St., 2nd Floor 621-4160

SEPT. 5, 12 & 26: Preschool STORY TIME at the Noe Valley Library begins at 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

SEPT. 6: Juthe Blankenship leads a WRITING WORKSHOP for visual artists Wed., 6:30-9:30 pm. Call City College's Continuing Education division at 561-1840 for registration.

SEPT. 6, 13, 20 & 27: The Noe Valley Library welcomes infants, toddlers, and their parents to its regular Wednesday LAPSIT program, 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.



SEPT. 7: The 30th Street Senior Center's benefit SUMMER BAZAAR features baked goods, knitting, weaving, and original art greeting cards. 10 am-3 pm. 225 30th St. 550-2214

SEPT. 7: The PEOPLE WITH AIDS Coalition meets for dinner and discussion, 7-9:30 pm. Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St. 621-7712.

SEPT. 7: Learn jigs and reels at a free introductory SCOTTISH COUNTRY OANCE class. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372.



Feral Footwork: Dancer Lea Wolf lets loose with three weekends of "wildly ferocious dancing" at Footwork's 22nd Street studio Sept. 28-Oct. 14.

SEPT. 7 & 8: Theater Artaud hosts the world premiere of Janice Garrett and Jonathan Lunn's OANCE performance "Storyboard." 8 pm. 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

SEPT. 7-OCT. 7: Theatre Rhinoceros presents *You & You & You*, four ONE-ACT PLAYS by gay male writers.

SEPT. 9: Find bargains in clothing, furniture, and housewares at Bethany United Methodist Church's RUMMAGE SALE. 9:30 am-2:30 pm. Sanchez & Clipper.

SEPT. 9: Project Read holds a MOVE-A-THON, a five-mile walk to benefit the library's adult literacy program. 10 am. Justin Herman Plaza. Call 252-5679 for information.

SEPT. 9-17: Cultural Odyssey's O SOLO MIO festival presents a retrospective of five productions featuring Rhodessa Jones and Idris Ackamoor. Ft. Mason's Cowell and Bayfront Theaters. Call 292-1850 for schedule.

SEPT. 10: The Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC Series presents the Artaria Quartet, performing string quartets by Boccherini, Johann Peter, and Mozart. 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317

SEPT. 10: The Noe Valley Ministry's CANTATE service of chanting, meditation, and prayer begins at 7 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

SEPT. 11: The Diamond Senior Center holds its monthly birthday party and OANCE featuring the music of the Rusty Band. Noon-3 pm. 117 Diamond St. 863-3507

SEPT. 11 & 27: Ruth Rankin teaches CPR CLASSES at the Noe Valley Ministry 7-10 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. Call 821-0108 for required preregistration.

SEPT. 12: POETS Jim Gove and William Talcott read from their work at 7 pm. Keane's 3300 Club, 3300 Mission St. 333-3494.

SEPT. 13 & 14: Jan Zobel leads a two-evening seminar, "Basic TAX and Recordkeeping Information for Self-Employed People." 7-9:30 pm. Call 821-1015 for location.

SEPT. 14: The S.F. Planning Commission will review plans for a TOWNHOUSE development at 3701 21st St. (near Sanchez). 6 pm. Room 428, War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Ave. Call to confirm: 558-6422

SEPT. 14: Newcomers are welcome to attend the monthly meeting of FRIENDS OF NOE VALLEY. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 282-7976.

SEPT. 14-16: Community Music Center offers FALL REGISTRATION for private lessons and group classes. Thurs. & Fri., 3-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-1 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.



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SEPT. 15 & 16: Noe Valley MOVIES presents "Dadaists, Cartoonists, and Clarinetists: A Concert of Surreal Film and New Music." 8:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 386-1291

SEPT. 17: Community Music Center features the work of African-American composer and conductor WILLIAM GRANT STILL (1895-1978). 7 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015

SEPT. 19: The Noe Valley Library offers FILMS for preschoolers at 10 and 11 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

SEPT. 19: A community meeting at S.F. GENERAL HOSPITAL focuses on new development sites in the Inner Mission. 6:30-8:30 pm. Carr Auditorium, San Bruno Ave. & 22nd St. 206-3669.



Diamond Panorama: A mural by artist Christopher Carter is one of the gems at the Diamond Corner Cafe at 24th and Diamond. Photo by Beverly Tharp



SEPT. 16: A GARDENING workday in Golden Gate Park's AIDS Memorial Grove honors Tom Baltinger and all who've died of AIDS. Carpools leave from What's for Dessert at 8:30 am. Sign up at the cafe or call 695-0940.

SEPT. 16: The Noe Valley Ministry hosts an Afro-Brazilian DANCE WORKSHOP fundraiser to benefit the Roof Fund. 2 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 285-3084.

SEPT. 20: The Department of Public Works will consider an appeal of a tables and chairs permit at 1451 Sanchez St., site of a proposed RESTAURANT called That Blue Place. 9 am. Room 428, War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness Ave. 554-5831.

SEPT. 20: Les Blank's FILMS *Werner Herzog Eats His Shoe* and *Who Are the DeBolts (and Where Did They Get 19 Kids?)* will screen at 7 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

SEPT. 20: The Noe Valley DEMOCRATIC CLUB holds a general membership endorsement meeting that will introduce candidates for district attorney, sheriff, and mayor. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-0549.

SEPT. 21: La Leche League's monthly meeting features a discussion of the advantages of BREASTFEEDING. 9:45 am. Natural Resources, 4077 24th St. 282-7816.

SEPT. 21: Women's WORLD MUSIC ensemble Libana performs at the Metropolitan Community Church. 8 pm. 150 Eureka St. 863-4434

SEPT. 21-23: Dancers' Group/Footwork hosts "Local 7," a showcase of DANCE and new performance. 8:30 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044

SEPT. 24: Davies Medical Center offers a WORKSHOP for older adults, "How to Cope with Loss." 1-2:30 pm. The Gazebo, Castro & Duboce. Call 565-6297 to register.

SEPT. 24-OCT. 22: The Marsh offers a WORKSHOP for elementary-age children with a performance of Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*. Sundays, 10:30 am-noon. 1062 Valencia St. 681-5850

SEPT. 26: Keane's 3300 Club sponsors a POETRY reading featuring Joie Cook and D. Jayne McPherson. 7 pm. 3300 Mission St. 333-3494.

SEPT. 27: The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group tackles Vladimir Nabokov's satiric novel *Invitation to a Beheading*. 7:30 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095

SEPT. 28: A live-class session of SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE, for all ages, begins. Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 239-5776

SEPT. 28: Upper Noe Neighbors and other neighborhood associations sponsor a MAYORAL CANDIDATES FORUM, with time for D&A with Roberta Achtenberg, Angela Alioto, Willie Brown, and Mayor Jordan. Upper Noe Recreation Center, Sanchez & Day. 641-5989

SEPT. 28-OCT. 1: The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library holds its annual BOOK SALE at Fort Mason. Call 557-4257 for information.

SEPT. 28-OCT. 14: Footwork studio showcases choreography and DANCE by Lea Wolf and Susi May. Thurs-Sat. 8:30 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044

SEPT. 30: St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church hosts an ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR. 11 am-4 pm. 1661 15th St. 861-1436

SEPT. 30 & OCT. 1: Deborah Staler & Company/Art of the Matter present a DANCE PERFORMANCE, "A Hole in the World." 8 pm. Theater Artaud. 450 Florida St. 621-7797



The Scoop on Calendar

The October issue of *The Noe Valley Voice* will appear Wednesday, Sept. 27, and will publicize events occurring Oct. 1-31, 1995. The deadline for calendar items is Sept. 15. Please mail your notice to *The Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley events receiving priority. □



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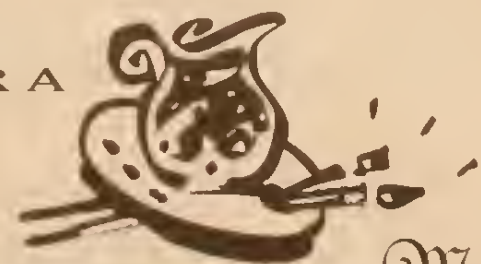
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Metropolitan Community Church, 150
Eureka St., 6:30 p.m.

Clipper Street SAFE Group

Contact: Don Kern or Howard Johnson,
821-3866

Mailing Address: 225 Clipper St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Tuesday of month, Bethany
Methodist Church, 201 Clipper St., 7 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month,
7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Bruce Muncil, 864-7847

Mailing Address: 336 Cumberland St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

Duncan-Newburg Association

Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734,

Janet Kennedy, 647-1844, or
Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753

Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe
Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St.,
7:30 p.m.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484

Mailing Address: 78 Harper St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe
Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Kevin Brickley, 285-4938

Mailing Address: 165 Fair Oaks St.,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Twice a year at ICA Auditorium,
24th & Guerrero.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Georgia Finnigan, 285-8016

Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of month,
Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library,
451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990, or Hilda
Bernstein, 282-8232

Mailing Address: 3333 21st St.,
San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Rick Hauptman, 647-0549

Mailing Address: 1595 Noe St., #6,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at the Noe
Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: J. P. Gillen, 821-1515

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 460574,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank
of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Senior Center

Call 648-1030 for lunch reservations.

Mailing Address: 1021 Sanchez St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Monday through Friday for lunch
(donation \$1.25), Noe Valley Ministry,
1021 Sanchez St., 12:30 p.m.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500

Mailing Address: 284 29th St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Monday of month, Just for
You Too Cafe, 1793 Church St., 3 p.m.

R.A.A.G.E. (Race Awareness Arhitation Group Education)

Contact: 285-5322

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 426199,
San Francisco, CA 94142
Call for meeting times.

21st Street 4000 Block SAFE

Contact: Santiago Rodriquez

Mailing Address: 4014 21st St.,
San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Held periodically.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989

Mailing Address: 403 28th St.,
San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe
Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez,
7:30 p.m. Call for specifics.



Caw of the Wild. Huge black crows descended on Noe Valley late this summer. This feathered fellow rested on a roof at 25th and Vicksburg streets, proving that our neighborhood is not for pigeons only.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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Not Every Dwelling Is a Victorian. Curved wrought-iron railings adorn a stairway on upper 24th Street. Photo by Beverly Thorp

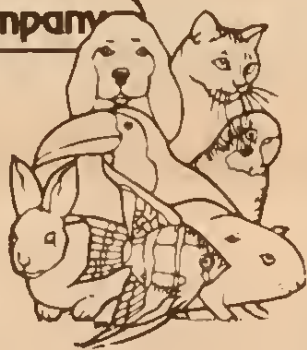
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What's Over Our Heads. A workman gathers the materials for his job among the rooftops of Noe Valley. Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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Former Noe Valleons Jim and Sherri Miller were visiting family in Buffalo, New York, this July when they thought to drop us a note. "How can I notice Niagara Falls when I've got the latest issue of *The Noe Valley Voice*!?" writes Sherri.



Max (left) and Simcha Mendle are both "More Mouths to Feed" graduates (1983 and 1981). Their dad, Bob Mendle, sent us his snapshot of the pair viewing a still warm-off-the-press issue of the *Voice* while on vacation in Athens, Greece, this June.



Tom Di Serio (left) and Dan Forchione, owners of Andiamo Deli on Diamond Street, help Noe Valley resident Ida Carrillo catch up on news from the lower 48 on the deck of a cruise ship in Glacier Bay, Alaska.



Chief Warrant Officer Tom Curran (left) was far from his Chavez-Army Street home by the time he had a moment to peruse his hometown paper. He and Chief Petty Officer Larry Bull were with their U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Unit in Korea, conducting a port security exercise with the U.S. and Korean navies.
Photo by Chief Petty Officer Brandy Ian



Noe Valley massage master Steven Arthur visited that other well-known valley this summer. And though he traveled light, he couldn't leave his copy of the *Voice* behind. It does help to get a campfire going.



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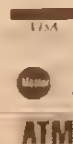
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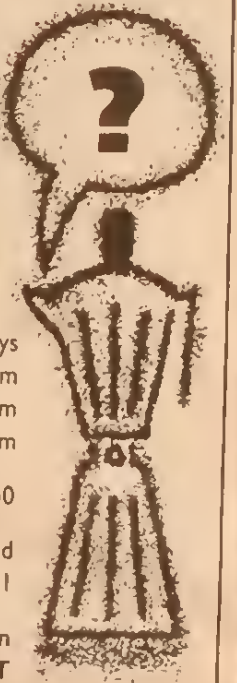
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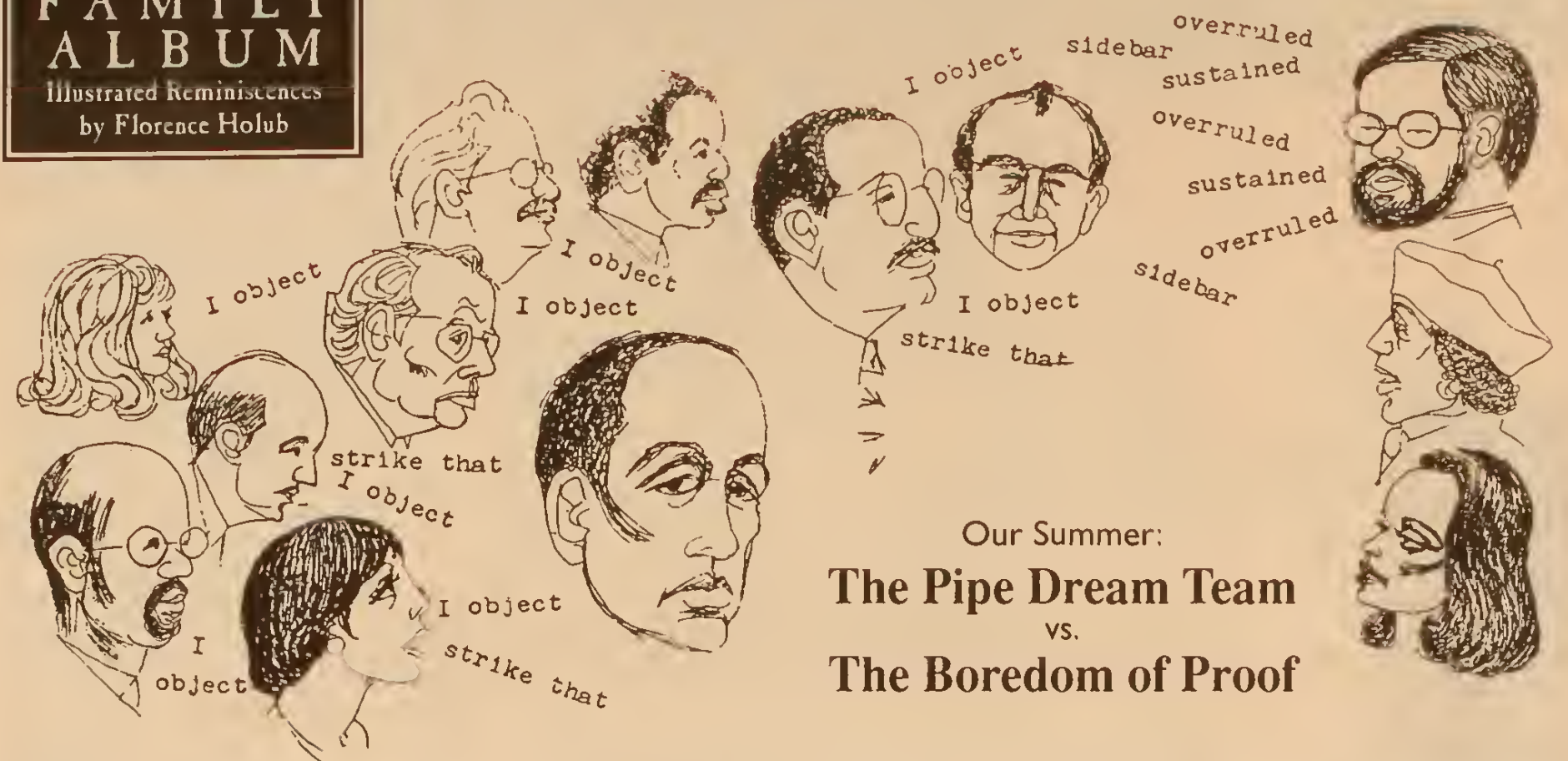
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Our Summer: The Pipe Dream Team VS. The Boredom of Proof

Because we rarely watch daytime television, my man Leo and I had no intention of tuning in the distressing, sensational O.J. Simpson trial. But as the hearings unfolded on several TV channels, live and incessantly, we found we could not escape it.

It was late February, a month after the trial started, when we realized that, alas, we had become addicted. That was on the day we attended my husband's eagerly anticipated Oakland High School Reunion at the Orinda Country Club.

We thoroughly enjoyed the elegant luncheon and catching up with Leo's old classmates, but as we were finishing dessert, we realized that the afternoon session of the trial was resuming. Simultaneously, we hastily excused ourselves and rushed home to our television set.

And that is the way it has been ever since.

During the week, it's all we can do to leave the house while court is in session. If one of us feels compelled to run an errand, the minute we return, we make a mad dash to the front room to ask the designated couch potato what has transpired.

At first, being unfamiliar with legal jargon, I was inclined to get things wrong, often stating that the lawyers had gone to the sidebar for a drink, and that the judge had "abstained."

But now, after almost eight months, I'm becoming an expert. The trial has

given me and many others an invaluable education in the inner workings of our judiciary system, as well as a crash course in the science of DNA and the properties of fibers clinging to our clothes, rugs, furniture, and dogs.

For those of you who have to work during the day and think that you've been missing something, I can assure you that the testimony is often boring and repetitious. And it's so time-consuming that even the patient Judge Ito has declared that he would like to finish the case in this lifetime, if at all possible!

To compensate for our trial-watching, on weekends and in the evenings this summer Leo and I have turned off the set and tried to take advantage of some of the exciting activities that our city has to offer. One event I attended recently while Leo was busy in the darkroom was a free performance by the San Francisco Mime Troupe of *Coast City Confidential*, a musical satire based loosely on our town's political shenanigans.

That afternoon in July the sun was shining on Dolores Park as the soft green lawn filled with people awaiting the show. But before the curtain went up, a mature woman wearing jeans and a tee shirt planted herself in front of the stage and, with her eyes and arms lifted toward the heavens, began chanting loudly.

Curtain time came and went, and still she continued, oblivious to attempts made by various individuals to dissuade and dislodge her. She absolutely would not be moved until about 20 minutes later, when the master of ceremonies announced that they had struck a deal. First he introduced her as "Planet Woman," and then he explained that if the audience members would rise to their feet and join her in prayer, Planet Woman would sit down.

Several hundred of us immediately rose and raised our arms to the sky. But since we didn't know the words, we just mumbled the chant, sounding much like a herd of mooing cattle. When she sat down, so did we.

Less than a minute later, however, Planet Woman was up again, but this time without her tank top. As she raised her arms high, it was apparent that she did not believe in supportive undergarments, and her large pendulous breasts could not be overlooked.

In no time the police had arrived to politely escort the poor well-meaning soul away. As the squad car drove off, the master of ceremonies used the occasion to urge all of us to support mental health.

If you still haven't seen the Mime Troupe this summer, there is one more chance. *Bay City Confidential* will close its run on Labor Day,

Monday, Sept. 4, at 2 p.m. in Dolores Park—this time, methinks, without Planet Woman.

The Mime Troupe is only one of the highlights of living in San Francisco. There are hundreds of outdoor adventures awaiting you in Golden Gate Park, and if the fog starts rolling in, go inside and visit the new exhibits at the de Young Museum, now celebrating its 100th birthday. Also, next-door to the de Young, the Asian Art Museum is hosting a fabulous collection of art from Mongolia.

In addition, you may easily travel from fine arts to "fin" art. Just across the concourse in the Academy of Sciences is the exhibition "Dancing to the Fossil," an imaginative collection of fishy but humorous art, shown (through Jan. 6, 1996) in conjunction with a display of authentic ancient fossils. Artist Ray Troll recreates the weird creatures that swam in the oceans millions of years ago.

This fine exhibition is also a crash course in paleontology, something not yet covered in the O.J. trial. Next to every illustration is a whimsical label, such as "The data is in the strata," and "Life is a fish and then you fry."

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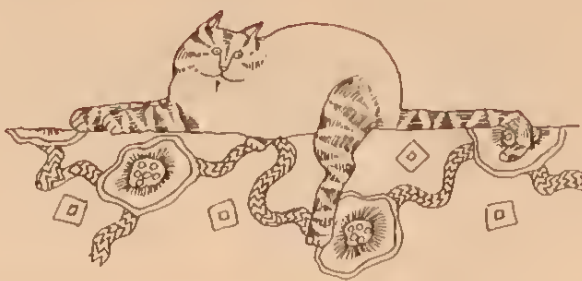


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Family Reunion. Our roving photographer got this 25th Street bunch to pose with Grandmother Rivero (center), visiting from the Philippines. From left are grandsons Tino and Ivan, daughter (and mother of three) Cielito, and granddaughter Rachel.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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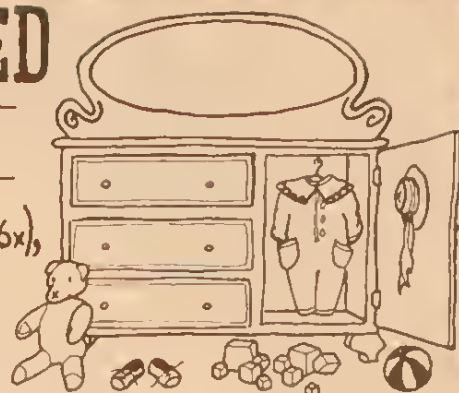


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MORE MOUTHS to feed

Emma Rose Claytor

If it hadn't been for the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, Eileen and Michael Claytor wouldn't have realized how much they meant to each other—at least not so quickly.

When the quake hit, the couple—who were both born and raised in Noe Valley and the Mission—had been dating only a few weeks. "But it made me realize that anything can happen, and it can happen tomorrow," says 38-year-old Michael, who works as a maintenance mechanic for the U.S. Treasury Department.

"From then on," adds Eileen, also 38, "we saw each other every day."

Eileen and Michael got married in November of 1991, and started working on the family they'd both always wanted. First came William Scott, born on Jan. 30, 1993. Then two years later on Jan. 20, 1995—at 4:55 p.m., to be exact—the family welcomed Emma Rose, who registered 8 pounds, 13 ounces, on the Claytors' Richter scale.

Older brother William, now 2½, has been delighted with the latest shakeup in the household. "When William goes to day care in the morning, he makes sure to kiss Emma goodbye," says Eileen, who works as a hairstylist at Mylene's Hair Salon on Castro Street. "And when she goes to bed, he always kisses her goodnight."

This is mostly because of William's loving nature, Eileen notes. But it may also be due to his sister's flirtatiousness. Emma has a way of lifting one shoulder, tilting her head, and blinking those blue eyes, says Mom.



Michael and Eileen Claytor with happy kids 7-month-old Emma Rose and 2½-year-old William.

Photo by Tom Wachs

"She flirts *big-time* with her grandfather," Eileen adds. "And in general, she's just a very jolly little girl."

She's especially happy when she gets to take baths with her big brother. "We put her in a safety ring, and she's in heaven!" says Mom. "She's not just laughing the whole time, she's belly-laughing. She's impressed with her brother, so when she gets to be in the big tub with him, it's a big deal."

Having two kids, Eileen admits, means having less time and less privacy. "You have to plan it out if you want to be able to talk without having to cut up someone's food," she says, "but it's also a lot of fun." In fact, the biggest surprise of parenting,

she adds, has been "just how really joyful it is."

Michael says his daughter is "just great!" Lately he's been getting a real kick out of "the way she goes berserko, running around the house in her walker!" He also says that having a second child is a snap, relatively speaking. "We gave up everything when we had the first one anyway," he laughs. "It's just a little more hectic now."

As one of six kids himself, Michael always knew that parenting entailed plenty of work, "but I didn't expect it to be this satisfying, or to have this sense of fulfillment and completeness. At the end of the

day when you're putting them to bed—this is what it's all about," he says.

"And I wouldn't trade it for all the money in the world." □

—Jane Underwood

More Mouths to Feed wants to show off *your* newest family member. If you have welcomed a baby into the house or just adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to *The Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to include your phone number, so we can arrange for the family portrait. □



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It Depends on Your Perspective. Ray (top) likes the straight-up view, while Jeremy and Max (right) prefer upside-down. All the kids on the playground agree, though: as far as climbing goes, up is as good as down.

Photo by Pomelo Gerard

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MORE BOOKS to READ

The Voice reading list comes to you courtesy of Roberta Greifer, Carol Small, and Cornelia Van Aken-Sanks, librarians at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. The library is open on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. For information, call 695-5095.

New Books - Adult Fiction

⇒ *Beyond Telling*, by Jewel Mogan, is a collection of short stories that take place in the South featuring a doomed, interracial romance, a group of illegal Salvadoran immigrants, and a teenage abortion.

⇒ *The Raggedy Man*, Lillian O'Donnell's latest mystery, depicts sexism, murder, and corruption within NYPD's narcotics squad.

⇒ Based on the Green River killings, *River*, by Roderick Thorp, portrays veteran detective Phil Boudreau in his determined, eight-year pursuit of an elusive psychopath.

⇒ *Strange Highways*, by Dean Koontz, author of *Dragon Tears*, contains his latest suspense offerings—two novels, 12 short stories, and a novella.

Adult Non-Fiction

⇒ Lawrence Langer's *Admitting the Holocaust* covers topics from history, literature, film, and theology in a series of essays that examine the Holocaust's impact on society.

⇒ The alphabetically arranged *Great Food Almanac*, by Irena Chalmers, features 260 fact-filled entries on food ranging from "funeral feasts" to seaweed.

⇒ Edited by Leslea Newman, *A Loving Testimony* is an anthology of stories, essays, and poems dedicated to loved ones who have died of AIDS. Seventy-seven writers contributed to the collection.

Book of the Month Club

⇒ The Noe Valley Book Discussion Group will meet at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m., to discuss *Phin*, a satiric novel by the Russian writer Vladimir Nabokov. Call 695-5095 for details.

Films of the Library

⇒ On Wednesday, Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m., the library will screen two films by local filmmaker Les Blank: *Werner Herzog Eats His Shoe* and *Who Are the DeBols (and Where Did They Get 19 Kids?)*. All are invited.

New Books - Children's Fiction

⇒ Geraldine feels neglected at first, but in the wee hours of the morning starts to form a relationship with her new sibling in *Geraldine's Baby Brother*, by Holly Keller. (Ages 3-5.)

⇒ Martha, who has never been an ordinary dog, wins a trip to the Come-On-Inn and causes a bit of commotion there in *Martha Calling*, by Susan Meddaugh. (Ages 4-6.)

⇒ When two paintings that seem to belong together are separated in the art museum, a kind art student creatively solves the problem in *The Gentleman and the Kitchen Maid*, by Diane Stanley. (Ages 6-8.)

⇒ The Queen of Sheba, already very wise, visits King Solomon and learns something important in *The Flower of Sheba*, by Doris Orgel. (Ages 7-10.)

⇒ Laura Ingalls Wilder's daughter Rose finds friendship and unexpected adventure when her pioneering family moves to a *Little Farm in the Ozarks*, by Roger Lea MacBride. (Ages 8-12.)

⇒ A peaceful country vacation becomes a *Crazy Weekend* when two inner-city teens witness a robbery in this realistic adventure story by Gary Soto. (Ages 10 and up.)

⇒ Feisty 14-year-old Catherine would rather become a crusader or a wart charmer than the lady of the manor in Karen Cushman's engrossing medieval tale, *Catherine, Called Birdy*, a Newbery Honor Book. (Ages 11 and up.)

Children's Non-Fiction

⇒ In *When You Go to Kindergarten*, James Howe describes the routines, rules, challenges, and pleasures of this important time in a child's life. (Ages 4-5.)

September Programs for Kids

⇒ Lapsits for infants and toddlers and their parents: Wednesdays, 7 p.m.

⇒ Preschool story time: Tuesdays, 10 a.m.

⇒ Films for preschoolers: Tuesday, Sept. 19. Two showings: 10 and 11 a.m.



Pictures Are In. As the summer session at Katherine Michiels School on Guerrero Street came to a close, parents picked up their choices of photos from their child's "art slot." This shot of Daniel Tipple shows him in a moment of relative calm, and serves as a reminder to his mom and dad that he can sit still for one minute.

Photo by Robin M. White

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Remembering Those Warm Nights. Though fall still holds the promise of warm—even hot—weather, the last weeks of August saw the return of evening fog. These shorts-clad strollers sprint past Martha & Bros. Coffee Company on Church Street like ghosts of memory. *Photo by Najib Joe Hakim*

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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Those Dastardly Undemocratic Demographics

By Mazook

Changing demographics is the reason being given by Orpheus Leather for packing its bags and leaving Noe Valley this fall.

Orpheus owner Melody Wendt explains that in recent years the neighborhood has been flooded by "families with small kids, and they don't buy leather goods." Sales figures for the shop—a 24th Street fixture for more than 13 years—have dropped precipitously during the baby boomlet of the late '80s and early '90s.

She quickly points out, however, that Orpheus is not going out of business, but looking for another location in San Francisco, "hopefully over the hill in the Castro, so our Noe Valley customers will not have far to go."

Unfortunately, Orpheus' closing, which is set for Sept. 4, will also spell an end to one of the regular sights along Noe Valley's Scenic Highway: the paintings, posters, and leather artwork of salesperson Zsa Zsa Zukouskas. Her pieces, which were often displayed in the shop's window, "were selling quite nicely, thank you," the artist says.

Maybe there's another merchant out there who will lend Zsa Zsa a wall.

NOE VALLEY'S BABY MILL is also the reason for Orpheus' upcoming replacement on the strip. The Ark, a "toys, hooks, and crafts" store reared in Pacific Heights, will be sailing in to occupy Orpheus' old storefront at 24th and Vicksburg at the end of the month.

Says Ark owner Vergilia Dakin, "It's too quiet over here [at Washington and Broderick streets], so it seems that we are following the demographics, too. There are lots of families with small children in Noe Valley."

Dakin, who comes from a family famous for their stuffed toys, says the Ark will specialize in "toys made out of natural materials, lots of low-tech and wooden toys, and children's costumes." Prices will range from \$10 to \$250.

The Ark is heading for a grand opening Oct. 1, after Dakin stocks the place with at least two of everything.

THE GREEN FACADE of the old Cork and Bottle, another representative of 24th Street's checkered past, now has a new blue hue and a couple of new tenants who will open a ceramic studio.

Holly Galbo and Hilary Gooch, who currently operate the studio TerraMia in Cow Hollow, say their Noe Valley pottery palace should be up and running by mid-September.

Galbo says she's thrilled to be back in the neighborhood (she used to live here), and that she and her partner have the answer to our artsy-craftsy dreams. "People in Noe Valley are going to really dig our place because you have all the fun of ceramics art without all the work. There is no raw clay to handle, no classes to take, and no experience required."

For anywhere from \$1 to \$50, "you can buy the ceramic piece and glaze it yourself in the studio with whatever design you want," she says. "Or we have stencils, we fire it in one of the two kilns we'll have on the premises, and you can come back and get the finished product in about a week."

Hey, lead me to the kiln.

(A small footnote: Rumors readers will delight in knowing that Galbo and Gooch were bidding on the Cork's spot against Noah's Bagels, which also had eyes on the place.)

THAT BLACK AND BLUE PLACE. "That Blue Place" is what partners Gary Logan and Cliff Gray plan to call their new Northern Italian/Mediterranean restaurant, on the verge of filling the cute little blue storefront at the southeast corner of Sanchez and Duncan.

Gray says he and Logan will aim for an October opening, and plan to serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner (plus weekend brunch) seven days a week, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

But life is never that simple.

Ad ad hoc committee of about 50 nearby residents, calling themselves S.O.S. (Save Our Sanchez), has handed together to try to stop the restaurant from opening. In particular, they want to block the beer and wine license and plans for outdoor seating. (The cafe intends to seat 32 patrons inside and 12 at six tables on the sidewalk.)

"People are very suspicious and angry and feel they have been hoodwinked by those two fellows, who have told very different things to different people at different times," says spokesperson Viviane Sosa, who's lived at the corner of Duncan and Sanchez for 15 years. She and her neighbors claim the

storefront has only limited commercial use—it's the former site of a corner grocery—and that a restaurant selling alcohol and open 16 hours a day would drastically alter the character of the residential street.

"I am a native San Franciscan, and I feel that Noe Valley is one of the last neighborhoods in the city where you can still raise kids," says Sosa. "Our kids play on the sidewalk, and lots of older people walk by daily. We also feel this is a bad sign for the entire community in terms of the trickle effect. People are still upset about Cafe Sanchez."

For his part, Gray says he has gathered over 300 signatures on a petition in support of the restaurant.

The dispute got a little ugly at the end of July, when shortly after a meeting of the opposition, someone spraypainted across the store window "No Way!" Gray also maintains that several pages of his petition were removed from Martha's coffee shop on Church Street.

Things should come to a head at a public hearing Sept. 20 (9 a.m., Room 428, 401 Van Ness Ave.), when the Department of Public Works will consider the outside tables and chairs. So don't sit down yet.

ALSO MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Sept. 14, 6 p.m., when the Planning Commission is set to undertake a "discretionary review" of the neighborhood's other disputed development, the one proposed for "Battle Mountain," the top of the hill at Sanchez and 21st streets. (The hearing takes place in that same Room 428 of the War Memorial Building, but call 558-6422 the week before, to make sure the item's on the Planning Commission agenda.)



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RUMORS

As you may recall from my previous columns, this past June the Planning Commission gave the go-ahead to developer Seamus McGee to demolish an old farmhouse at 3701 21st St. McGee and son Brian McGee plan to replace the old Parker House with four four-story townhouses (five bedrooms, six bathrooms), selling for \$800,000 to \$900,000.

Since then, a group of neighbors has formed an association called the NSSH (Neighbors to Save the Sanchez Hilltop), which now sports almost 600 members.

Over 100 people squeezed into the historic farmhouse on July 11, to meet with the builder and try to convince him to reduce the proposed structures by 50 percent, possibly eliminate the attic rooms, and minimize the loss of trees, sunlight, and open space on the corner.

Amy Powell, a spokesperson for NSSH, said after the meeting that the developer accepted an invitation to meet with members of her group "to start a dialogue to discuss possible modifications of the project which would make it acceptable to the neighbors."

But when the group met with the builder and his architect on Aug. 7, they were informed that there would be no modification of plans, Powell says.

"We are all very frustrated that basically the developer is not taking any of the neighbors' suggestions into account and chooses to address the issue only before the Planning Commission."

NSSH filed its request for a discretionary review on July 21.

Methinks that unless large numbers of people show up at the Sept. 14 hearing, the commission's review of this proposal will be shorter than Rayburn Street (which runs between 21st and Liberty), thereby putting the NSSH between a rock and a bulldozer.

See you downtown. □

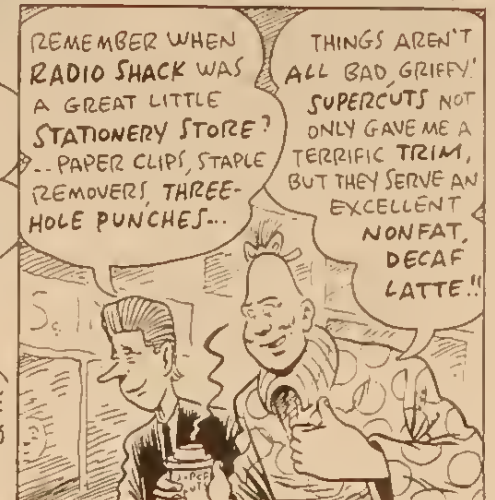
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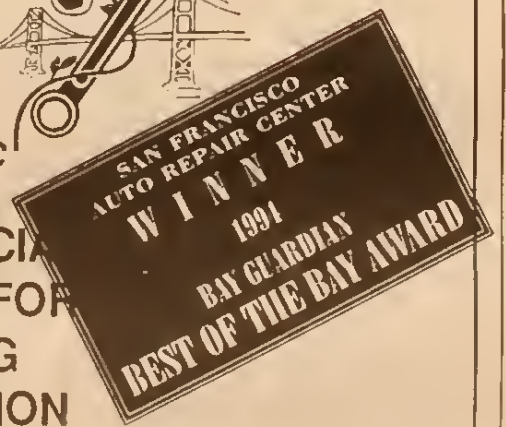
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THE LAST PAGE

Fiction

A Place You Love

Emily Han Zimmerman

Noe Valley is a neighborhood so pleasant, so lovely, so peaceful, so sunny, so benign, so safe, it sometimes makes me nervous. I wonder what could go wrong.

If Noe Valley has any of the ordinary everyday horror of human existence, it must be hidden, happening behind closed doors or operating only in the privacy of fleeting thoughts. Even the homeless people on 24th Street appear to be well adjusted to the strangely overpowering niceness of the neighborhood. Of course, it could be that I am the one who adjusts them so, in my mind, since I prefer to exclude real-life horror from the magical ethos of a neighborhood I chose in order to feel safe.

I live in outer Noe Valley, not far from Billy Goat Hill, a place I love. A geomancer named Forrest Skybird once told me that the hill is a "power spot," where the earth's energy meridians cross near the surface and cause strange and beneficial phenomena.

Billy Goat Hill was once a stone quarry, now left alone and wild, stretched out like a sleeping giant, with outcroppings of stone softened by blankets of bunch grass and embroidered with bright California poppies and vibrant pink, purple, and yellow wildflowers. The terrain is bordered on two sides by residential streets—along the top there's Beacon Street, and along the bottom, 30th Street and Laidley Street. Rising up the wooded side of the hill is Harry Street, the hidden staircase connecting Beacon to Laidley.

I suspect that Laidley Street is the one most heavily affected by the power spot's influence. The houses seem alive and growing, like creatures in a futuristic fairy tale on a street from another planet. Giant horned owls, Mycenaean warrior helmets, Zen temples, post-modern gas stations, and Hansel and Gretel cookie houses perch on the hillside, staring at the spires of St. Paul's with wide-eyed wonder. The earth's energetic blood courses so near the surface here that people, plants, dogs, and domiciles enter a force field crackling with creativity.

Perhaps Noe Valley as a whole is affected by the power spot. This might explain why there so many babies driving around in their baby vehicles, pointing the way. They stare, turn their heads, kick their feet, drop half-eaten cookies, speak and sing in divine languages, while towing their mothers and fathers, or mothers and mothers, along the enchanted sidewalks of Noe Land. Everywhere I turn on 24th Street, a baby's face shines with curious, unblinking eyes, blessing the human species with the restoration of innocence to the world.

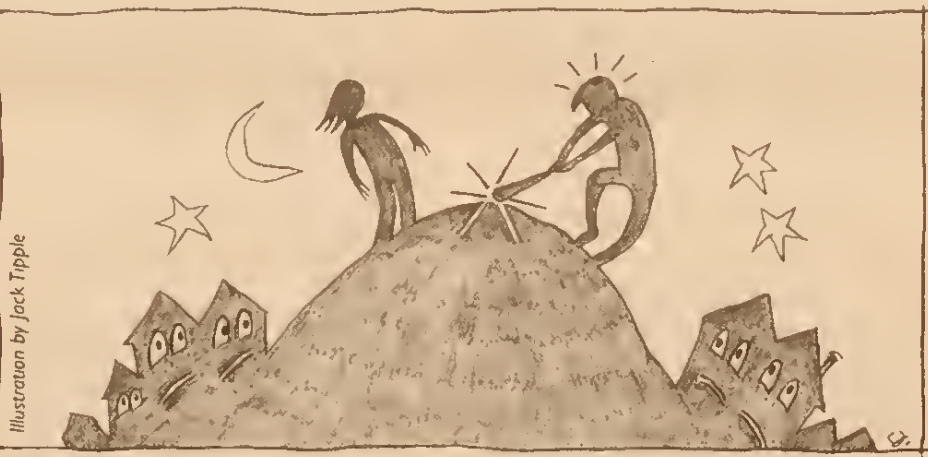
There's another magical phenomenon I've noticed in Noe Valley—it's the way I seem to run into people on the street, usually just when I want to. There's a high-intensity synchronicity here, an invisible hand steering people across each other's paths with hidden and benevolent purpose.

There was a period of time a few years

ago when I kept running into the same guy, an obviously anxious man named Bruce, whom I'd met at a party. I had decided he was someone seriously to be avoided, yet I kept running into him.

I'd see him buying organic pancake mix at the "No Racism, No War" Community Store, or waiting at the J-Church stop in front of Star Bakery, or standing in line at the 24th Street post office, or just weaving his way through the throngs of baby strollers. We'd say hello, and then he'd launch into describing his pain.

I wanted to avoid Bruce because he not only ralked incessantly about his inner torture, but he also never listened, and I have minimal patience for this kind of inequity. But I'd keep running into him, so finally one day on the sidewalk in front of St. Paul's Church, I stopped him in mid-sentence and gave him a lesson in basic listening skills. He practiced listening to me for a few minutes, and a look of revelation came over his face. "Wow! This is amazing!" he exclaimed. "I've never listened to anyone before! Wow! Thanks! No one's ever taught me how!"



AFTER THAT, we became friends. He'd invite me to lunch at his apartment, so I could watch him "listen" to his roommate Gus, while he prepared wonderful eggplant and mozzarella sandwiches.

Still, Bruce remained an anxious, even troubled person, and wanted to tell me all about it. He told me how his wealthy father only cared about two things: growing the family's chain of restaurants and keeping his private clay tennis court rolled smooth. His dad had never listened to him—ever—Bruce said. Women and men wanted to date Bruce only because they admired his father; his father wouldn't pay for Bruce to go into an inpatient codependency treatment program that only cost \$40,000; his father called Bruce sweetie, which felt like emotional incest, and as a result Bruce couldn't cope; at night he felt traumatized and scared all the time and bounced off the walls at home, and could only get grounded by ordering a sausage and pineapple pizza delivered at 11 p.m. He didn't know how to take care of basic things like cleaning the toilet because no one had ever taught him anything, and he might have been learning-disabled as a child, but no one ever cared, and he hated working as a cab driver because he'd rather be a nightclub singer.

One early evening, I ran into Bruce at the Versateller machine at 24th and Castro. Before I could even take out my "Quick Cash," he started talking about his pain, how his therapist didn't really care about

him after three years of seeing him once a week, because his father had picked her out for him, so he couldn't really trust her....

I thought, now here's the hidden horror of Noe Valley.

"Bruce, stop. No, stop. I really want you to stop and listen to me for a minute," I said. He immediately stopped shaking his head, relaxed his hypervigilant worried look, and put on his listening ears, like a little kid who's been given some clear structure for playing fair.

Now that I had his attention, I had to think fast. I suggested that he and I walk over to the power spot on Billy Goat Hill and each take a turn expressing our emotions about family wounds in a constructive, clean, contained manner.

Bruce instantly turned happy and excited, and offered to bring along his whiffleball bat, so we could use it to beat up some rocks and trees. Well, this will sure be interesting, I thought.

Normally, if I feel a need to release some old pain stored in the reptilian part of my brain, I go to the beach with a friend and scream at the sea, but on this occasion I figured the middle of Billy Goat Hill, since it was pretty far up above the houses on Laidley, and well below the houses on Beacon, would be a place where we could make some noise and not disturb anyone.

So Bruce ran home for his bat, and I went home for a warmer coat because the fog had started to swirl down over Diamond Heights and into our corner of Noe Valley. By the time we met at the foot of the hill, it had gotten dark and the wind had picked up and was whining eerily. This is the perfect natural mood music for us to

get in touch with our existential angst and release it to the elements, I thought.

We climbed up the hill to an outcropping that overlooked the city. The downtown skyscrapers and the Bay Bridge sparkled on the horizon. Dark grasses and eucalyptus trees rustled fragrantly around us. Any other sign of human life was far away, above and below us, behind cozily lit windows.

I expressed my pain first, to show Bruce how it was done. I instructed him to simply witness, quietly, without getting alarmed or trying to help me, but trusting that I knew what I was doing. I started screaming, "I hate you! I hate you!", directing my wrath toward the Bank of America and Transamerica Pyramid looming in the distance. I called up a memory of my mom, bless her, towering above me when I was a child. In the vision she was tall and impersonal as a skyscraper, and she informed me, coldly, bitterly, that I would have to make or marry lots of money when I grew up.

I kept yelling at the top of my lungs, discharging the stored physical discomfort of this memory, until I felt an incredible sense of release. At that moment, the universe supported me, cradling me gently in its arms. I could feel the power spot injecting a transfusion of earth blood to heal me after such deep emotional surgery. Then I heard Bruce shouting joyfully, "WOW! Okay, now it's my turn."

As I stood witness, he began whacking the whiffleball bat on a big rock. Then he

bunched up his leather coat and started beating it with the bat, screaming, "I'm gonna kill you! Kill! Kill! Kill!" I wondered if he was thinking about his father. Whatever it was, he was really getting into it, swearing and cursing and assaulting his coat with the bat, breathing hard.

I expressed my pain first, to show Bruce how it was done. I started screaming, "I hate you! I hate you!", directing my wrath toward the Bank of America and Transamerica Pyramid looming in the distance.

When he stopped, even in the dark I could see a change. I saw the release coming over him. The shape of his body, kneeling in the dirt, suddenly relaxed, and the grip on the bat loosened.

He picked up his coat and shook it open to put it back on. I'd hardly seen this guy smile before, but now he looked like an open, happy baby. I smiled back instinctively—and that's when we heard the police sirens.

A police car pulled up on 30th Street below us; another, on Beacon Street above us, and a third started sweeping the hillside with a searchlight.

"Oh, my God," we said at the same time, and then started climbing down the hill, waving in a friendly manner at the red and blue flashing lights. Bruce thrust his bat into my hands. "Here, you take this, so they don't think I was hitting you," he said. Then he shouted at the shapes below us, "Hey! We're normal people! Don't worry, we're normal!"

When we stood face to face with the police officer on 30th Street, I started explaining quickly. "Gee, Officer, I'm so sorry.... We must have disturbed the neighbors. It was my idea"—Bruce nodded, agreeing—"and I didn't think the sound would carry so far."

The police officer observed us carefully. "Ma'am, we got three 911 calls from people saying someone was being murdered up there. What were you doing?"

"Oh, gee, I'm sorry, Officer," I pleaded. "We were only doing some rage release work—harmless to us, of course, but obviously we upset some neighbors. I'm really sorry, I'll never do it again."

The police officer leaned into his police car window and picked up the mouthpiece of his radio. "They were doing rage release work," he reported. He looked at me again. "Look, lady, we'll let you go this time. But next time, take it somewhere else."

"Yes, sir, thank you, sir. It doesn't belong here. We definitely should have taken our rage to the beach."

When the police car drove off, Bruce and I decided to go out for pizza. We started walking down the hill toward Church Street.

"Wow. That was scary!" exclaimed Bruce. "Yes, that was scary," I said.

But the truth was, we both felt incredibly happy, euphoric even, as we walked along the safe, benign, well-lit streets of Noe Valley. ♦

For the past seven years Emily Han Zimmerman has lived on Valley Street, within striking distance of the "power spot." She is a freelance writer who has contributed articles on the atomic bomb and multiculturalism to Asian Week. She also is a member of Memory Writings, a troupe of women writers who perform once a season at Luna Sea.

Last But Not Least: The Noe Valley Voice invites readers to submit fiction, essays, or poetry for possible publication in the Voice. Please mail your manuscript, which should be typed, double-spaced, and fewer than 1,500 words, to 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to send a phone number. Thanks. Yours sincerely, the Editors.